

FR ALAN'S REFLECTION

WE ARE HEADING HOME

When homing pigeons are released, they do not immediately head home. They fly up in the air and go around in circles trying to get their bearings. All of us I am sure have experienced some uncertainty of how to get to a certain destination. What is true in terms of physical location can also apply in other areas as well. It is also possible for us to feel lost spiritually, psychologically, or emotionally. In all cases we long for that one person to say, 'Come and I will show you the way.'

In this Sunday's Gospel we hear Jesus speak the words 'I am the Way the Truth and the Life.' He is saying to us that what is happening in our lives is not all that there is. There is a place prepared for each of us in his heavenly kingdom. He invites us to follow him: 'Come and I will show you the way.' This is a great comfort when we feel our lives are going around and around in circles and we are struggling to get our bearings.

The context of this reading is well worth noting. At the end of the previous Chapter Peter declared his willingness to lay down his life for Jesus. Jesus then rebuked Peter predicting his denial. He then immediately follows this up with words of encouragement and assurance. The Gospel tells us that God is never short of power, wisdom, and goodness. He continues to reach out to us even amid our brokenness.

Peter returned after the resurrection stronger than ever and went on to live a life full of purpose and direction. Today's Second Reading from 1 Peter attests that he had found his home in God. God will also lead us home, but we must give him our trust. Do we cultivate a homing instinct for heaven in our lives?