

# FR ALAN'S REFLECTION

## BEING IN TUNE WITH GOD

In our Second Reading for this Sunday, Romans 12: 2 says 'Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind.' In other words, we must put on the mind of Christ. We must be transformed to the way he thinks and not taking control and doing things our way. At the heart of it we are asked to be in tune with God.

In last week's Gospel Jesus told Peter he would be the rock on which he would build his Church. In this week's Gospel which immediately follows last week's, we listen to Jesus rebuking Peter in the strongest possible terms. It seemed such a profound change in such a short space of time. Why? The reason was because in that moment Peter was not tune in God. When Jesus revealed the true purpose of his mission Peter could not take it. Though Peter understood his words he could not reconcile his view of Jesus with the suffering and death that Jesus spoke of. He had seen Jesus being adored by the crowds. He thought that ultimately Jesus would remove the occupying Roman forces and take control and that as a follower he would be the beneficiary of this. Confronted by the fact that his expectations were not going to be met, Peter took Jesus aside and started to remonstrate with him. Rather than being in tune with God, Peter was in tune with his own worldly ambitions. He had not yet understood the foundations that Christ was trying to build.

Origen one of the early Church fathers who lived from 185-253AD had this to say. He suggested that Jesus was saying to Peter, 'Peter your place is behind me, not in front of me, your place is to follow me and not try to lead me in the way that you would like me to go.'

In this Gospel we learn that discipleship is not about what you are going to get. It is about what you are prepared to give. Jesus says, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine let them denounce themselves, take up their cross and follow me.' This means we must take away our own egos and our own plans and our own desires for glory even if we get nothing in return. Ultimately the strength of our Church will depend upon our collective willingness to deny ourselves and place ourselves at the service of others. It demands that when there is a conflict between God's way and ours, we will always choose God's way even if we have to suffer for it. Going back to the words in our Second Reading today this will require a profound change in behaviour.

Are we tune with this demand or at present do we identify more with Peter in this Gospel where we just do not want to know about this?