

4<sup>th</sup> June 'Comfort my People' Abraham, our father in faith.

*This morning, I heard a touching conversation shared by Pope Francis at the general audience given yesterday in the Vatican library.*

*It seems to me to be a precious guide for the months that lie ahead still as the darkness of the pandemic gradually leads to fresh dawn.*

With Abraham, a new religious experience arises among human beings. He detaches himself from all that he had – homeland, flocks, family – on the basis of a promise.

Abraham was given a promise, and, trusting in this promise, he lived by faith. Faith becomes a call, a vocation, a story. Abraham *trusts* in God. He is our 'father in faith' (First Eucharistic Prayer) Life is transformed from a heavy enigma into an adventure upheld by the strength of God's promise.

God was no longer a cosmic force, sometimes the cause of delight in the beautiful things of the world, sometimes the cause of terror in the awesome phenomena of fire and storm.

With Abraham, humanity's relationship with God is lived as a personal history. He follows where God leads, even when it is a difficult history. He knows 'My God!', no longer an abstract or impersonal cosmic force. God is his companion, who guides his steps, each day!

Like Abraham, it can happen that we are placed where our prayer is darkness, a prayer that hands over what is most precious to us. We learn to pray with faith.

Accordingly, Abraham's prayer is frank and real. He discusses, even disputes, with God. We are embarrassed that we have become angry with God. However, that is the prayer - authentic prayer - of Abraham. In this way, we too can pray to God as our Father.