



MEDITATIONS FOR LENT by Father Robbie Low

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT – WEDNESDAY John 8: 31-42

'If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed'.

To the generation before mine, freedom meant a freedom from the terrifying, dehumanising and ruthless twin tyrannies of Fascism – a relatively brief obscenity – and Communism, a totalitarian blight that enslaves large numbers of humanity to this day. It was a freedom for which many of them fought and died. For my generation, the Baby-Boomers, the happy inheritors of so great an estate, it all too often translated into libertarianism, libertinism with sexual licence as the driving force and costly personal and social consequence. In terms of our religious quest it means something rather different.

When I first engaged in adult conversation about the Faith, it was with a priest who became a lifelong friend. After a long time, years rather than months, he directed me to a simple prayer, a daily collect that concludes Morning Prayer. It begins: 'O God who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom.....'

'If you find,' he said, 'that the more you serve God the freer you become then you will know that I am telling the truth. So now is the time to stop talking and test it out in action.' The rest, as they say, is history.

Freedom is the freedom to become the person God made you to be. This is not dependent on the political or social weather. Freedom in Christ is, as St Paul says, the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Spiritual exercise: Make a time for the great sacrament of liberation – confession and begin your preparation now.