

Donnybrook

2 September 2021

Welcome

You may have felt, as I did, when looking over today's first reading a certain passion, an emotional intensity in the writing. The writer certainly wants us to grow in our relationship with God in Christ.

Steps

He uses a special word to convey this: knowledge. In itself, this might seem unremarkable, except that it is not the ordinary word for knowledge, *gnosis*, but an intensification of that, *epignosis*, which indicates intimate knowledge. It is, in fact, a kind of loving knowledge.

So that you will be able to lead the kind of life the Lord expects of you, a life acceptable to him in all its aspects, showing the results in all the good actions you do, and increasing your intimate knowledge of God.

What would I need to do to grow in my intimate knowledge of God? It is possible to nourish our relationship with God in at least three ways: meditation, scripture and the Eucharist.

In meditation, our prayer is the prayer of presence, simply being attentive to God, letting God love me and letting the love of God arise within me.

When reading Scripture, the experience of previous generations can inspire, challenge, guide and comfort. The word is the very voice of the pilgrim people of God and through that word, God speaks to us today.

At the Eucharist, I join with my fellow believers – something we have learned to appreciate in a fresh way since the pandemic.

Conclusion

All is gift and all is grace. Meditation is God's presence within. Scripture is God's presence through the voice of the pilgrim people of God. In the Eucharist, God is present in the community of the faith, in the word and in the sacrament. All really is gift and grace: our task is simply to say yes, deeply and consistently.