

I wonder if one can see Sr. Lucy's long battle with poor health and memory loss and yet radiant faith, as symbolic of humanity's universal struggle through time and yet deeper sense that God is present to us fully, now, and that this is all we really have and all that really matters, and the rest can take care of itself, that is, all that is past and all that is to come. This was prompted by Karl Rahner's intuition that we heard in yesterday morning's Office of Readings that Christ's Second Coming is all of a piece with the first: it's all one event. Perhaps, then, in her memory loss – that is, her short term memory loss – we were seeing something of her truer nature emerging, as someone forced to live in the present moment and having to rely on what was left of a personality slowly being taken apart by disease. And what was left was beautiful: an acceptance of loss and of others, often with a whimsical smile, though not without pain. Now, this is said by a monk, living next door, but perhaps we all 'live next door' to one another, not knowing ourselves fully, let alone one another. And reflecting on the readings chosen for today, we can have some sympathy for Thomas in his bewilderment at the Lord's possible going, and some sympathy, too, for the Lord's reassurance that He is 'the Way, the Truth and the Life', and, in this sense, not going anywhere. And this makes sense to me of Paul's wonderful hymn to God's love – of course, neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God. We may live as if separated from God by death or life, but the reality is one: God is not going anywhere, rather, as Sr Lucy often said, and knew, we are but fish swimming in the ocean of God's love. And this intuition has a long history, not least in the words of Deuteronomy, the Shema

Hear O Israel: the Lord our God is one God, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Hear, and then teach, as Sr Lucy so ably did. Now this, of course, must not turn into a panegyric for Sr. Lucy but, if her intuition was right, then anything good said about Sr. Lucy is something good said about God. We have an incarnational faith, after all. I leave the mystery of evil to others, in sure knowledge that

Nothing can ever come between us, and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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