

We touched yesterday on the search we all have for meaning and how we find this most profoundly in the myth of Christ incarnate – not only as a good man we could all choose to follow – a charismatic figure we might even choose to die for, but as The God Man who chooses to give his life for us – to endure the penalty of our sin in order to free us from it. This is an entirely new freedom. In Christ we can hope for eternal life and this also means we can find hope, in and for, all those who have gone before us in the same search for eternal life. In Christ, indeed, we all live and there is a continuity between the living and the dead and we can trace that continuity with joy remembering all those who have gone before us, with all their idiosyncrasies and imperfect witness, knowing that in Christ and only in Christ, perfection, that is completion or maturity, is possible.

We had a day here recently celebrating *The Flora and Fauna of Turvey – Human and Otherwise*, with a deliberately ambiguous title to bring out the imperfection of all life in its struggle to be whole. And so we came to a slide showing a range of figures who had been important in establishing the two religious communities here at Turvey today, starting with a rather worried- looking Dom Bosschaerts (I know how he feels) and an ailing Dom Edmund; a solid- looking Mother Lucia; a relaxed Dom Gregory; a welcoming Dom Vittorino; a mischievous Sr. Benigna with her always chic friend Monique from Belgium and many other lay people who have accompanied us; some more flawed than others but all, in a sense, now part of us, influential in our journey, not because of their goodness, necessarily, but because of Christ, the one in whom we all inhere and have hope.

This is the larger story we referred to yesterday in which some are singled out as of special inspiration but which, in fact, applies to us all. This is Christ as inspiration in each one of us, in and for one another; a sharing in his Spirit which gives each one of us an eternal character which cannot be gainsaid. This is life for all – past, present and to come.

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