

The Fish Net

Summer 2016

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago when we let our dog out in the backyard, we noticed that she seemed to be fascinated by the part of the garden closest to the patio. Wondering what had sparked her interest we had a look and, much to our surprise, we found a rabbit's nest complete with three or four recently born babies. In the weeks since, the rabbits have matured, growing from small furless creatures to cute miniature versions of their parents. One thing that we have found interesting in all of this though is the behaviour of the mother. We have caught glimpses of her a couple of times in the vicinity of the nest or in the gardens nearby but generally she is nowhere to be seen. Indeed our greatest indication of her presence is our dog's behaviour. When she is loose in the backyard and especially first thing in the morning, she runs around the yard, nose to the ground, tracking the newest scents, and while I can't be sure I suspect that they are those of the mother. She is rarely to be seen but, with perception, traces of her presence can be discovered, and it occurred to me; how often does this describe our relationship with God?

We recently celebrated Pentecost and one of its great promises is that God isn't just a being of the past, an ideal, or "up in heaven". Rather, one of the great promises of Pentecost is that through the Spirit God is also here and now, present, active and involved. How often though are we largely oblivious of the Divine Presence in our lives and the world around us, just as we are largely oblivious to the presence of the mother rabbit in our backyard? There can be many reasons for this. One is routine; we see what we expect to see and nothing more. Another reason can be that of busyness; we rush through life so focused on what we think needs to be done that that we are oblivious to what is right there in front of us. For many of us though, summer marks a break from the routine. Life slows down a little bit. Indeed summer can present us with the opportunity to, in the words of the psalmist: "Be still, and know that I am God".

Wishing you a most blessed summer!