

The Autumn of Our Own Existence



The hidden secret of Autumn: the leaves don't actually "turn" colours. With the winter season coming, and the process of photosynthesis being without the key ingredients of warmth and sunshine, trees begin to break down chlorophyll. With the "green" gone, the other colours that have been there all along — the magical reds, golds, and oranges — begin to express themselves.

That's the secret: it's the uncovering of the beauty has been there all along. And we as human beings are like this. Each one of us contains hidden jewels inside.

Each of us contains 'colours' inside, which can remain hidden by everything else that gets in the way. In terms of our life of faith, the 'colours' can be seen as being different divine qualities that are present inside each of one of us at all times: compassion, justice, kindness, forgiveness.

These divine qualities can be masked, covered over, hidden in situations when other attitudes and behaviours show forth more strongly: selfishness, greed, anger, lack of consideration of others.

The hidden mystery of the Autumn season is that when the 'green life' goes, the colours inside are on display. And there is something similar that happens inside us when we let go of those other actions and attitudes.

This is a continuing challenge for us all as we try to live more and more the life of Jesus Christ in our own lives, responding to the gift of the Holy Spirit with which we have all been blessed.

It is the call and challenge that our young Parishioners are identifying as they explore the Sacrament of Confirmation – coming to recognise the life of the Holy Spirit in which they will be renewed when we are able to celebrate the Sacrament with them. Uncover the life of the Holy Spirit that is in you - and may be called to show up in new ways while we're in this strange situation of both keeping our distance and also spending so much time with one another in our families!

