

## Thought for the Week from Revd Carollyn McDonald 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Greetings in Christ to you all. We are in the season of Lent - a time to reflect and think on Christ our Lord, and all He endured in the time between Palm Sunday and His glorious resurrection on Easter Day, full of hope and promise.

I don't know about you, but I have heard many friends, all good Christians, saying they feel we have given up so much this year, that giving up something for Lent is not really an option for them. This is even more true of our friends who work on the land, with limited social contact, and the pressures of Brexit and payments. I've been searching for something new that makes some sense of these times, and of course the Bible always holds gifts of truth and comfort.

Here is a quote for Easter thoughts based on the concept of alchemy – the turning of lead to gold.

*"...there is a sort of divine alchemy. He (Jesus) took the raw material of our sufferings into the furnace of his own suffering and death. But then, on that Easter morning, he walked from the tomb carrying gold."*

The grief, bereavement, and pain was transformed from suffering to pure love. *"an alchemy of your grief. Little by little, the gold of love emerged from the tomb of sorrow within you" "Your aching heart also started to love so much more."*

Michael Mitton is such a deep reflector and writer on healing, and this quote is from his story about an angel who lives on earth and helps many humans; the *Dorchadas Trilogy*.

I love this suggestion about suffering turned to love; to gold, as the Bible tells us there was such a bright light when Jesus rose from the dead – that light might have perhaps been golden? Often in the morning or evening especially, the sky turns gold, with clouds tinged, and the light on our bare trees, house walls and puddles reflecting this glory. It sometimes stops me in my tracks for a moment, in wonder.

Gold, such a precious yet heavy metal. Do you have something gold you can hold? Maybe a wedding ring, or a piece of gold coloured jewellery? Gold does not tarnish, though it can be scored and dented. It survives centuries underground (did you watch the movie *The Dig?*). We have a Gold Standard in currency, and use gold bars, valuable currency, hidden away. Maybe you have a gold ingot or medallion? Was it a token of love and future proof?

That is what Christ has won for us, an un-tarnishing, lasting, precious gift. As gold as the yolk of a free-range egg and the beak of a chick; other symbols of Easter life.

May you have a fruitful Lent and a very happy Easter as we struggle through the pandemic together with hope for the near and the far future.

