Contemplative Outreach Ireland – Christmas Blessings 2022

What matters most

"Here in time we make holiday because the eternal birth which God the Father bore and bears unceasingly in eternity is now born in time, in human nature. St Augustine says this birth is always happening. But if it happen not in me, what does it profit me? What matters is that it shall happen in me."

Meister Eckhart

"The problem is not feeding the poor, or clothing the naked, or visiting the sick, but rather recognising that the poor, the naked, the sick, prisoners, and the homeless have the dignity to sit at our table, to feel 'at home' among us, to feel part of a family. This is a sign that the Kingdom of Heaven is in our midst". – **Pope Francis**

"The terrible wonderful truth is that God's existence in the world is dependent on us, as our existence is dependent on God. "

The contemplative is on a journey to wholeness, autonomy, freedom – the freedom to love, to care to transfigure the earth. Ultimately contemplation is related to our vocation – to what we are to do in the world. In contemplative prayer we participate in God's nature, we are in touch with our own divinity. Latent creative powers in us become alive.

Elizabeth O'Connor, In Search for Silence

"This is the time to open ourselves beyond the appearances of Christmas or even the rituals of Christmas to the spirit and depth of the gift of God that these rituals manifest or invite us into. And so it is that grace that I pray that each of us might experience an enormous increase in, so that we may then perceive in others this divine presence even where it's completely unexpected and hidden and secret."

Remember…"*Only the Divine matters …..And because only the Divine matters, Everything Matters*"   **Fr Thomas Keating**

Wishing you Silence Solitude Stillness, Solidarity and Service…in abundance throughout 2023

 "*When all things lay in the midst of silence then leapt there down into me from on high, from the royal throne, a secret word*" **(Wisdom 18:14)**