

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – Wednesday 31st May 2023

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Hearing the Bird Song

I love hearing the bird sing, as I go out first in the morning in our garden. Its hard to describe it except to say it is so beautiful. I will one day tell you what the birds are! Alan Thatcher is our resident bird expert, and please pray for Alan as he recovers from a bout of ill health in hospital.

I read recently, that scientist in San Francisco found that, during lockdown three years ago, the sparrow's songs changed. As the city's sounds dimmed, their songs were more noticeable. Its not that they sang louder, in fact male sparrows sang about 30% more softly, but rather, their voices carried twice as far, and so their voices got richer, deeper, and they were able to say more, and say it better, because they didn't have to shout so much.

Lockdown, and the Pandemic, was a very difficult time for many people, but for others, it also gave them the rare opportunity to slow down, to strip away the noise and listen to their inner self, and or to God, and to focus on what was truly important. I wonder, three years on, whether we have kept some of that rich discovery, or whether we have allowed all the noise to come back?

Jesus often went off to quiet places to pray, sometimes on a mountain top, once in the Judean wilderness. That was his way of stripping away the noise. Not the noise of traffic, apart from any particularly tetchy donkeys or camels, but the distractions and expectations that bombard us every day and almost every hour. He appears to have come back from those times having heard from God and with guidance to make important decisions. He probably also got away to hear the birds sing!