Thought for the day on Passion Sunday by Peter Judd

As we turn our attention to the passion of Jesus- it marked a huge change in his life. Before he went where he liked, preached where he wanted, stayed where he chose. After his arrest he was completely in the hands of others. He had to wait to see what would happen to him next. He had no control over his circumstances. Yet in these hugely different circumstances he remained calm, dignified, loving and concerned about others.

W.H Vanstone wrote a book called ‘The Stature of Waiting.’ In it he mentions a bishop who was dynamic and creative and much admired in his working life. However, at the end when he was infirm and bedridden his friends said that what the saw in that helpless person was even more impressive than what he had been. They saw a person glowing with calm faith and outgoing love that lifted the spirits of those who visited him, when they thought they were going to comfort him. In our present circumstances, as we wait at home for all this to pass over, we can follow and identify with Jesus in his passion even more intensely than ever before.

As we wait and watch with Jesus, we can reflect on there being grace and stature in waiting, and that we can radiate calm faith and outgoing love even when we are in effect under arrest and housebound.