

LIGHTS that we can LEAVE BEHIND!

John Ruskin (1819-1900) was a leading English art critic in his own right he was also a gifted poet and storyteller.

One of his best stories was when he reflected on a scene from his rural home verandah late one afternoon that was high up over the town and below he saw the town lamp lighter on his horse lighting the town gas lamps. He would have been on horseback with one hand on the reins and a flaming oil canister in the other hand. Everywhere he went this man would leave a trail of lights blazing behind him.

The genius of John Ruskin shone when he wrote these very words; *“This lamplighter is a wonderful metaphor for a good Christian in that everywhere they go they leave behind them a trail of light for other people to benefit from.”* The light of a good Christian is one where there is warmth in what they say and do as well as a sense of clarity in what they say and do, they don't leave people second guessing!

Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) on the night he was elected South African President spoke of the value of light when he said; *“When we let our light shine we unconsciously give other people permission to shine their light. As we liberate ourselves from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”* These 2 great men from different times and continents continue to illuminate others! *Fr Martin R Maunsell*