

Reflection for Feast of St Mark 2nd Week of Easter 2020

We rightly believe that God accepts us as we are, warts and all! Our difficulty is not with God but with ourselves. We are the ones who find it difficult to accept ourselves. In fact, we are far better at accepting others as they are than we are at accepting ourselves. We are aware of our failings and our failures. Whatever good we do we believe we could always have done better. So, we spend each day battling with ourselves, yet, knowing that God accepts us as we are. When St Peter calls us to wrap ourselves in humility. This is not something we put on. It is not way of acting. It is not being someone different. On the contrary, wrapping ourselves in humility is about accepting ourselves as we are, warts and all. This does not mean that we do not try to improve or do better, or try to overcome our failings, far from it. But to improve we have to start from where we are and move forward. Once again St Peter, obviously street wise, reminds us that we do not do this alone. We do this with others and, in helping and encouraging them, we help and encourage ourselves. Being missionaries of Good News, like St Mark, as Jesus has asked us to be, is most often about helping and supporting each other in our faith. And we do this best when we start by accepting ourselves as we are. Be clear that humility is not about demeaning ourselves, putting ourselves down, because this does a disservice to God who made us with many gifts and talents. The humble person acknowledges their talents and continually seeks to improve them and, in the process, those talents become stronger and we become better bearers of Good News.

Pope Francis: *Litany of Humility:*

<i>Lord Jesus. Meek and humble of heart,</i>	<i>hear me.</i>
<i>From the desire of being esteemed,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the desire of being loved,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the desire of being extolled,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the desire of being honoured,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the desire of being praised,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the desire of being preferred to others,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the desire of being consulted,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the desire of being approved,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the fear of being humiliated,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the fear of being despised,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the fear of suffering rebukes,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the fear of being calumniated,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the fear of being forgotten,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the fear of being ridiculed,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the fear of being wronged,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>From the fear of being suspected,</i>	<i>deliver me, Jesus.</i>
<i>That others may be loved more than I,</i>	<i>Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.</i>
<i>That others may be esteemed more than I,</i>	<i>Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.</i>
<i>That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease,</i>	<i>Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.</i>
<i>That others may be chosen and I set aside,</i>	<i>Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.</i>
<i>That others may be praised and I unnoticed,</i>	<i>Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.</i>
<i>That others may be preferred to me in everything,</i>	<i>Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.</i>
<i>That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should,</i>	<i>Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.</i>