

Reflection Friday Week 11 – 2020- The Sacred Heart of Jesus

Feel the warmth and love of today's Gospel. It is all-consuming and yet uplifting and reassuring. It is one of those occasions that you want to hang on to, like Peter at the transfiguration. There are many times in the Gospel when Jesus pours out his love for his followers or, as he would call them, his brothers and sisters. Jesus does this for us too. Today's episode took place at the last supper on the night he would be arrested and condemned to death. Fortunately, Jesus lived in the present not the future. There is no doubt that we have caused Jesus great sorrow which is why the sacred heart bares a crown of thorns. With Jesus, however, the sorrow and sadness we caused him only made him love us all the more. Something difficult for us to get our heads round!! Jesus' words makes it clear that everything he did was out of love for us and for his Father, whose love he showered on us. St John puts it well. ". . . *as long as we love one another, God will live in us and his love will be complete in us.*" Deuteronomy flags up the fact that, like the Hebrews, we are the chosen of God, not because of our ethnic background, culture or history, we are the chosen because we have responded to his call to be his brothers and sisters, his missionaries. With Jesus it is not about making the team or being better than others. All he asks for is a positive response to his invitation.

In my youth, nearly every catholic house possessed a picture of the Sacred Heart. Ours was poignantly placed over the fire – a place warm and comforting in the winter, in the days before central heating. I was told that, during the war, a bomb exploded not far from our house which blew out all the windows. When my parents returned, the picture was untouched but turned around and facing the wall - even the glass remained unbroken. A true sign of who Jesus is. He is warm, comforting, protective and comfortable to be with. Yes, Jesus chose us out of love which is why we celebrate this feast today. But we know that Jesus' sacred heart watches over us not just today but all the days of our lives.

St John Paul II *In the Sacred Heart, every treasure of wisdom and knowledge is hidden. In that divine heart beats God's infinite love for everyone and for each of us as individuals.*

Mother Teresa *Do not let the past disturb you. Leave everything in the Sacred Heart of Jesus and begin again with joy.*

Groaners . . . !!!

- Why was the Cow always short of money?
Because the farmer milked it for all it was worth!
- How do Bees get to school?
They take the school buzz!!
- Why was the man upset after he became a vegetarian?
Because he realised he had made a missed-steak.