

Reflection Friday Week 12 - 2020

In Matthew, Jesus makes it very clear the he does not perform healings in order to win people over to faith in him. If anything, he seems to want to make it more difficult: *“Don’t tell anyone about this”* he says. Of course, those healed do not obey him. The short gospel today reveals the true compassion of Jesus. Our well-being is Jesus’ priority and therefore the priority of the Father and the Holy Spirit. Having spent time teaching through his sermon on the mount, Jesus now moves into action. How easily Jesus responds to people’s requests. This compassion, this concern for the well-being and goodness of others has certainly been mirrored during the Lockdown. Countless stories are told of good works, support and help that have taken place – creating an encyclopaedia of altruistic goodness and charity. As Lockdown is being eased let this altruism and goodness continue to flourish. Despite the financial, educational and job difficulties that lie ahead, new bonds of friendship abound, barriers between people demolished. All of this has helped strengthen the character and well-being of the nation and will see us through the challenges ahead. As we move forward, the slogans: **stay alert – control the virus – save lives** also apply to our faith. Continue to **stay alert** to those around you and respond to the needs that arise. **Control all that causes harm** – we can replace *virus* with racism, gender, creation, injustice. And, in the process, we will continue to **save lives!!**

Pope Francis: *“The pandemic has exposed our vulnerability and uncovered those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily lives, our projects, our habits and priorities. We have allowed the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and communities to become dull and feeble. The pandemic has laid bare our pre-packaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nourishes our souls; all the attempts to anesthetize us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly “save” us, but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us. We have deprived ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity.*

However, all this has uncovered for us once more that (blessed) common belonging, of which we cannot be deprived: our belonging together as brothers and sisters.”

By the way

*The police arrested two young children the other day. One was drinking battery acid, the other was eating fireworks. **They charged one - and let the other off.***