

Reflection Friday Week 15 –2020

Having listened to the first reading, you would not be surprised if I said I always keep a bag of figs in the cupboard – However, I would!!

Isaiah reminds us once again of the generosity of God. This leaves us with a certain sadness at the nit-pickers in the Gospel who challenge the disciples for eating grains of wheat from the field on a Sabbath. **Nit-pickers** are described as those who quarrel with trivialities of expression and meaning, but who usually end up without making concrete or justified suggestions for improvement. They are people who frequently find fault or make harsh and unfair judgments, pointing out or complaining about every flaw that one comes across (in or about something), no matter how small, petty, or insignificant. There are many ways in which society chooses to nit-pick at individuals in the spotlight. This sort of negativity can degrade the value and image of others with a continual and usually trivial wave of criticism.

- “Anyone nit-picking enough to write a letter of correction to an editor doubtless deserves the error that provoked it.”
- Your observations and subsequent conclusions about others, often reveals more about yourself than about those whom you observe.
- We live in a world where finding fault in others seems to be the favourite blood sport. It has long been the basis of political campaign strategy. It is the theme of much television programming across the world. It sells newspapers.

Anthony de Mello SJ : *Anytime you have a negative feeling toward anyone, you're living in an illusion. There's something seriously wrong with you. You're not seeing reality. Something inside you has to change. But what do we generally do when we have a negative feeling? "He is to blame; she is to blame; she's got to change." No! The world's all right. The one who has to change is you. As you identify less and less with the "me", you will be more at ease with everybody and with everything. Do you know why? Because you are no longer afraid of being hurt or not liked. You no longer desire to impress anyone. Can you imagine the relief when you don't have to impress anybody anymore? Oh, what a relief. Happiness at last!*

Instruct me, Lord, in your way; on an even path lead me!

A couple of thoughts

- When I become a lawyer, I want to defend a penguin.
Just so I can say the words “*Your Honour, clearly my client is not a flight risk.*”
- An elderly gentleman was driving along the motorway. His wife calls him on his hands-free mobile in a worried voice saying, "Herman, be careful! I just heard on the radio that there is a madman driving the wrong way on the M1!" Herman says, "I know, but there isn't just one, there are hundreds of them!"