

## Reflection Thursday Week 13 – 2020

Are you a pessimist or an optimist? The scribes and pharisees were obviously pessimists. They could only see the error in what people were doing (or not doing). Obviously, Jesus was an optimist. He even forgave the paralytic his sins before he was asked. Jesus optimism was all about hope. He could see the possibilities and opportunities in front of himself and of others. Optimism generates an openness towards others and towards the future. There is a story about two boys. The first, a pessimist, was put in a room full of toys. The second boy, an optimist, was put in a room filled with horses' manure. They were left alone for an hour or so. Coming back to the first room full of toys, they found the boy crying his eyes out because he could not find a particular toy he wanted. Coming to second room, they found the boy chuckling away and digging frantically through the manure, saying to himself, "With all this manure there must be a horse in here somewhere!!" The optimism of Jesus was such that he set people free from both physical and spiritual ailments because he believed in opening up for them great possibilities and opportunities in the future. A future full of hope!

Pope Francis: *"Hope does not expire, because it is based on the fidelity of God. The hope of the Spirit is more than optimism. Born deeper, it rekindles at the bottom of the heart the certainty of being precious because loved. Hope leaves peace and joy inside, regardless of what happens outside. Hope has strong roots which no storm of life can uproot. Hope does not disappoint but gives you strength to overcome all tribulations."*

**Just a short one today . . . .**

**A rancher was persuaded to cross-breed his cattle with hyenas. It was a disaster. The offspring were the laughing stock of the community!**