

Reflection Wednesday Week 13 – Dedication of the Cathedral 2020

The Cathedral is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord, which used to be celebrated on 1st July (Pius IX - 1849) This feast has now been incorporated into the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ – Corpus Christi. The cathedral church is the seat of the leader of the diocesan family, Cardinal Archbishop Vincent Nichols. It is through him and his fellow bishops that the nourishment of Christ's Blood flows into our hearts, lives and homes. In celebrating the dedication of the Cathedral today, we thank God for our leaders and ask God's blessing on them in their challenging role of nurturing our faith. We thank God, too, for the freedom to celebrate our faith and recognise that the roots of our faith go back to Peter chosen as its first leader and thank God for all his successors and particularly the former leaders of our diocese. The fact that our Cathedral is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus reminds us that Jesus won life for us through the shedding of his blood. Let us re-commit and re-dedicate our lives to the service of Jesus Christ and be joyful messengers of the good news.

A brief history of the Cathedral: *The Cathedral site was originally known as Bulinga Fen and formed part of the marsh around Westminster. It was reclaimed by the Benedictine monks who were the builders and owners of Westminster Abbey, and subsequently used as a market and fairground. After the reformation the land was used as a maze, a pleasure garden and as a ring for bull-baiting but remained largely waste ground. In the 17th century a part of the land was sold by the Abbey for the construction of a prison which was demolished and replaced by an enlarged prison complex in 1834. The site was acquired by the Catholic Church in 1884. The Cathedral was dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It was designed in the Early Christian Byzantine style by John Francis Bentley. The foundation stone was laid in 1895 and finally completed eight years later. The interior of the Cathedral, still incomplete, contains fine marble-work and mosaics. The fourteen Stations of the Cross, by the sculptor Eric Gill, are world renowned.*

Stop that rustling

A cowboy walks into a bar. His hat is made of brown wrapping paper, his shirt and vest are made of waxed paper, and his chaps, pants, and boots are made of tissue paper.

A little while later he was arrested him for **rustling**.