

Reflection Monday week 27 St Faustina Kowalska 2020

Saint Faustina Kowalska (1905 - 1938) Helena was born on 25th August 1905 in Głogowiec, Poland, the third of ten children of a poor family. From an early age she had a religious vocation. Despite opposition from her parents and rejection by the first few convents to which she applied, she was finally accepted by the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, and joined on 1st August 1925, taking the name Sister Mary Faustina. She lived there for the rest of her life. Her work as cook, gardener and porter revealed nothing of her rich mystical interior life. The mystery of the Mercy of God, the centre of St Faustina's spirituality, was revealed to her by Jesus in visions and conversations from 1931. In choosing an obscure and uneducated young girl as the apostle of devotion to the Divine Mercy, it followed the pattern so often used by God: that his strength is manifested in weakness, and the weak and humble have the power to change the world. *"Today I am sending you with my mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to my merciful heart."*

Finding Happiness. A group of 50 people were attending a seminar. The speaker decided to organise a group activity. He gave each attendee a balloon. Each one was asked to write his/her name on it with a marker pen. Then, all the balloons were collected and put in another room. Then the delegates were let into that room and asked to find the balloon with their name on it within 5 minutes. Everyone began frantically searching for their name, colliding with each other, pushing others around and creating chaos. After 5 minutes no one had found their own balloon. The speaker then asked them to randomly collect a balloon and give it to the person whose name was written on it. Within minutes everyone had their own balloon. The speaker continued, *"This is happening in our lives. Everyone is frantically looking for happiness all around, not knowing where it is. Our happiness lies in the happiness of other people. Give them their happiness and you will discover your own."*

So often Jesus does not answer the question asked. He was asked "Who is my Neighbour? But in the Good Samaritan story he says *"And who was the neighbour to the man left for dead?"* Those listening to the story understood straight away who the neighbour was – the Samaritan. Maybe what Jesus is trying to tell us is that if we are a neighbour to others including our enemies, those we dislike or who dislike us, we will know who is our neighbour???

My neighbours listen to great music whether they like it or not!!!