

Reflection Thursday Week 27 – 2020

The Galatians are really being hauled over the coals by St Paul this week. Today he makes it clear that God's grace is never earned. God's grace and love are available to us always, generously, willingly and with no conditions. The key is faith, faith in God and faith in the Trinity. However generous, however great our personal sacrifices, our devotedness, our loyalty, they do not earn us a place in heaven or even an ounce of God's grace. All the good we do is done through the power of God dwelling within us. We love our neighbour out of thanksgiving not for reward, thanking God that we are able to do good and for God's presence in our lives. This is also why we can never tire of doing good because God's grace and power never decrease, if anything they grow stronger within us, the more we use them. Having won life for us, nothing can bring greater happiness to Jesus than showing him that it was all worthwhile by living in his way. The stories of Jesus offer many insights and understandings, but it is often good to start at the end. Today Jesus says, *how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!* However generous we may be, God is abundantly more generous and always ready to respond to our needs, to our prayer, in the right way and at the right time. Let us give thanks and praise to this ever-loving and over-generous God. **A poem by Deborah Ann**

Scatter seeds of kindness, as today you make your way
you don't know just how much they could make someone's day.

Spread a wide old-grin, get someone else to smile
it could make them feel useful and worthwhile.

Extend a happy greeting, sing out a bright hello
it may bring a little joy to someone you don't know.

Disperse some generosity, it can go a long, long way
to energize and cheer up someone sad you meet today.

Scatter seeds of kindness, let goodwill be what you sow
how they make other's feel you may never really know!

A foreigner visiting Texas for the first time sat next to a cowboy and couldn't help noticing the size of the steak the man was eating. "Wow! That steak is huge! And so is your beer!". "Yeah," said the Texan. "Everything in Texas is big. Our houses, our trucks, our horses, our farms, even our generosity!" With that he bought the man a round and they continued to talk about the size differences between Europe and Texas. After a few beers the foreigner needed to use the loo. "*Down the hall on the right, second door*" said the bartender. But the foreigner took the second door on the LEFT and fell straight into the swimming pool. "Help!" he cried, "Don't flush!!!!"