

Reflection Wednesday Week 29 – 2020

We can join Isaiah and say with him: *“Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he is my saviour.”* St Paul reminds us that the salvation Jesus won for us, he won for everybody without exception.

By his glorious Cross Christ has won salvation for all people. He redeemed them from the sin that held them in bondage. ... Created in the image of the one God and equally endowed with rational souls, everyone has the same nature and the same origin. Redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ, all are called to participate in the same divine beatitude: all therefore enjoy an equal dignity. Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Pope Francis said, “No one should be afraid that God has allowed there to be different religions in the world. In fact, we should be frightened if we are not doing the work of fraternity, of walking together in life as brothers and sisters of one human family. Some theologians say it is part of God's *“permissive will,”* to allow many religions. Some emerge from the culture, but they always look toward heaven and God. What God wants is fraternity among us, which is why we must not be frightened by difference. God has allowed this. But it is right to be worried when people are not working toward a more fraternal world.

In a visit to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates to meet Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb -- a leading authority for many Sunni Muslims, Pope Francis signed a document on human fraternity that read, *“The pluralism and the diversity of religions, colour, sex, race and language are willed by God in his wisdom, through which he created human beings.”*

The Pope also declared that God *“has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone! Even the atheists. Everyone!”*

Pope John Paul II said: *In the Holy Spirit, every individual and all people have become, through the Cross and Resurrection of Christ, children of God, partakers in the divine nature and heirs to eternal life. All are redeemed and called to share in glory in Jesus Christ, without any distinction of language, race, nation or culture. The Good News which Christ proclaimed and which the Church continues to proclaim, in accordance with the Lord's will, must be preached “to all creation” and “to the ends of the earth”.*

A tourist visits a Buddhist temple wanting to ring the bell at the top of its tower.

However, the chap had no arms, having lost them in an industrial accident. But, being no stranger to adversity, he insisted on ringing the bell anyway. So, he ran towards the bell and hits it with his head. The first two times were fine, but on the third attempt, he tripped, stumbled and fell off the tower to his death.

When being interviewed about for the accident, the police asked the monks “Did you know this chap?” The monk responded, **“No, but his face rings a bell!!”**

