

Reflection Monday Week 32 Dedication of St John Lateran 2020

The Lateran Basilica was built by Emperor Constantine on the Lateran Hill in Rome about 324. The feast of its dedication has been celebrated in Rome on this date since the 12th century. In honour of the basilica, *“the mother and head of all the churches of the City and the World,”* the feast has been extended to the whole Roman Rite as a sign of unity and love towards the See of Peter, which, as St Ignatius of Antioch said in the 2nd century, *“presides over the whole assembly of charity.”*

Jesus is the way, the truth and the *Life*. The way Jesus has chosen to give life to his followers (and in fact everybody) is through the Church. We call this life by many names, grace, the power of God, the power of the Spirit or more popularly love, goodness, mercy, compassion and forgiveness. Ezekiel pictures this life as water, a source of health and, when needed, medicinal. We gradually realise that this water of life flows into us and through us like a river and that wherever we go and whatever we do we can let it flow into those around us, into our everyday tasks and into nature and creation. Today we are reminded to give thanks for the Church, praying especially for Pope Francis who is an inspiration, letting the water of life flow abundantly through the Church. Reflecting on Psalm 45/46: *God is for us a refuge and strength, a helper close at hand, in time of distress, so we shall not fear though the earth should rock, though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea;* we know that this same healing water will conquer the covid virus and set us free.

Praise God! Praise God! Praise God!

1. What happens when you spill water on a table? It becomes a pool table.
2. What do you get when you pour boiling water down a rabbit hole? Hot cross bunnies