

## Reflection Saturday Week 34 – 2020

We can relate to the Gospel from St Luke today if we replace debauchery with the pandemic. Alcohol consumption has certainly increased despite the lockdown. The restrictions and conditions placed on us by the Government to shield us from the full effects of the pandemic would certainly correspond to the cares of life. As always Jesus says, *“Take heart, stand firm, I am with you and will see you through this ongoing crisis that you face!”* We are living the last hours of a liturgical cycle with the words ***Stand fast, take courage Trust me*** ringing in our ears.

We celebrate a votive mass of Our Lady today knowing that Mary is also a strong support and a loving, caring mother, always ready to help and inspire us. Just as she has done throughout the year. It is important to recognise her at this time because Advent starts this evening and the person who made Advent possible is Mary our Mother. She is there at the beginning just as she is there at the end and all the way through. Spend time reflecting on the way Mary has helped you at different times in the year. She will be there for you through all the days of Advent, more than happy to bring you Jesus this Christmas.

Mary we cannot thank you enough.

At morn — at noon — at twilight dim —  
Maria! thou hast heard my hymn!  
In joy and wo — in good and ill —  
Mother of God, be with me still!  
When the Hours flew brightly by,  
and not a cloud obscured the sky,  
my soul, lest it should truant be,  
thy grace did guide to thine and thee;  
Now, when storms of Fate o’ercast  
darkly my Present and my Past,  
let my Future radiant shine  
with sweet hopes of thee and thine! E.A. Poe

### Let’s end on a groaner . . . .

On a road through an Arizona desert, a preacher named Nathaniel Evans walked every day, preaching to the many people who roared past in their cars. *“Repent, the End of the World is Near!”*

One day, he came across a big lever in the middle of nowhere, by the side of the road. It had a sign next to it that read, ***“Pull this to end the world.”***

It was a perfect place to preach. Soon many cars were parked nearby. All was well, until there were so many people and so many cars, the road was nearly blocked. Then a big 18-wheel lorry came down the road, and couldn’t stop in time. The driver had a choice: run over Nathaniel, or run over the Lever.

As the driver later explained to the policeman, he had no choice. Pointing to the red smear on the road that used to be Nathaniel Evans, he said, ***“Better Nate than Lever.”***