

## Reflection Tuesday Advent week 4 – 2020

The story of Hannah is deeply moving. A mother who pleaded to God for a child, generously handed him over to God just before his teen years. What a sacrifice she made since Samuel was her only Son! Yet, this story helps us better appreciate the generosity of the Father who handed over his beloved and only Son into our hands. This story is a powerful example of true love since only true love would be able to do this. Hannah teaches us that life is a gift from God. We do not own our lives – our lives are a gift entrusted to us by God. Hannah also shows us that life comes with a mission - a mission to serve God. Serve not in the sense of a slave but, as Jesus said to us, a friend, making it a mission lived in love, of which Jesus is the perfect example. Because we often fail to realise the greatness of our lives (unlike Mary), the Father sent us his Son, so that the greatness we see in the birth of Jesus we will see in ourselves; a greatness proclaimed by Mary in her Magnificat. I remind you of the words of Macrina Wiederkehr: *“All too often we bemoan our imperfections rather than embrace them as part of the process in which we are brought to God. Cherished emptiness gives God space in which to work. We are pure capacity for God. Let us not, then, take our littleness lightly. It is a wonderful grace. It is a gift to receive. At the same time, let us not get trapped in the confines of our littleness, but keep pushing on to claim our greatness. Remind yourself often, “I am pure capacity for God; I can be more.”* Mary recognised her pure capacity for God which is why she said yes to the angel Gabriel. Now it is our turn.

- One Buddhist to another: What do get for someone who already has nothing!!!!
- Buddhist meditating to his mantra: OOoooooomm! OOoooooomm! OOoooooomm!  
One cow to another in the field nearby: *Some Holy Man! He’s got it all backwards!!!!*
- A Zen master said to me: *“Do the opposite to what I tell you!”* **So, I didn’t!!**
- Tombstone for Buddhists: **Back Soon!!**