

Reflection Friday Week 2 – 2021

During the pandemic, one of the lessons we have learnt is how truly important our family and friends are to us and the importance of mutual support. Although we knew this before, it has now become much more significant and raised to a higher level. Scripture has recently reminded us a number of times that Jesus chose to form a community around him from the very beginning. He understood the importance and value of mutual support and friendship from the word go. He formed a family around him because he wanted his followers to do the same. Hence the eventual formation of parishes and other Christian groups – we are stronger. There was a great variety among the people he chose, a zealot and a tax collector, fishermen, people of importance, a writer. They were people of all ages too. We also know that they challenged Jesus in different ways. They were not just yes men. None of them were forced to stay with him, not even Judas who eventually betrayed him. Even though they deserted him when he was finally arrested, they returned out of loyalty and belief in him, even though there was still much they did not understand. There must have been many an argument and disagreement that we do not know about but it was through these differences that they understood the message and mission of Jesus better. It would appear that Jesus helped them listen to each other and thus better understand a different opinion or view. In learning to listen to each other, they were better able to listen to Jesus. Maybe this is the lesson Jesus wishes to teach us today. Listen to each other especially those whose opinion is far from your own – listen in order to learn to understand better an opposite view. Then, you and me will more ably take in the lessons Jesus teaches us each new day . . . !

People like to share their musical taste with their neighbours these quarantine days. My neighbour has been listening to death metal the entire day at full volume. Whether he likes it or not.

I hate listening to anaesthesiologists tell stories. They always put me to sleep