

## Reflection Monday Lent 5 – 2021

We could reflect on the wisdom and cleverness of Daniel and Jesus. We would probably want to ask where was the man who put the woman in this difficult position. However, let us focus on the woman. Probably the most comforting words she had ever heard in her life were the words of Jesus. *“I do not condemn you. Go away and sin no more!”* The forgiveness of Jesus - of God - is always forward looking. It envisages a future of hope and possibility and, in some cases, a whole change in life-style and values. The woman had already suffered, facing what she believed was a terrible death by stoning. It may have lasted for several days. Picture now the look of sheer relief on her face at the action and words of Jesus. For her it was certainly an offer of new life. In forgiving us our sins and failings, Jesus offers us new life too. Once again, the pandemic provides a concrete example of what this means. For a year we have lived with restrictions and some form of isolation. It has been far from an easy time and, when we emerge from the pandemic, we will be facing the possibility of new life that will have to be different from the life we lived before. In fact, we will not be looking for a new normal but for a new way of life that is more caring and compassionate towards others. A life in which we give more time and consideration to our families and to each other. A life that is less selfish and more altruistic. A life lived more simply that enables us to enjoy the rich pleasures of life with others, free from the entrapments of possessions and always wanting the newest gadget or fashion. A life that offers the delight of being in the company of others, even those we found difficult to live with before. A life that allows us to be more aware of how God is present and close to us in our daily encounters rich with God's blessings and graces. A life won for us through death and resurrection, because of Jesus' love for us and because of our love for Jesus. A life always open to change!

### **Pope Francis** (*Lumen Fidei*)

*Faith, by revealing the love of God the Creator, enables us to respect nature all the more, and to discern in it a grammar written by the hand of God and a dwelling place entrusted to our protection and care. Faith also helps us to devise models of development based not simply on utility and profit, but consider creation as a gift for which we are all indebted; it teaches us to create just forms of government, in the realization that authority comes from God and is meant for the service of the common good.*