

Reflection Saturday Lent 3 – 2021

Like the tax collector in the Gospel and the psalmist, we kneel before God and say: *“Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.”*

Jesus gives us another insight into humility. Yesterday we were reminded to love God and love neighbour with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength. Humility concerns our relationship with God and our relationship with each other and with all others. Dr. Anna K. Schaffner writes: *Humility has nothing to do with meekness or weakness. And neither does it mean being self-effacing or submissive. Humility is an attitude of spiritual modesty that comes from understanding our place in the larger order of things. It entails not taking our desires, successes, or failings too seriously.* It is a strength both in relationships as well as in leadership. In fact, humility helps us recognise that we live in a shared world with others and that God is our creator and the creator of all things. The humility of God is made very clear in sending his Son Jesus to us. We are made in God’s image and are made with the ability to be humble in our relationships and most of all with God. Humility helps us recognise that all our actions have an influence on others just as their actions have an influence on us. Humility helps us recognise how we are part of an intricate network of relationships in which each person has a unique and key role, and that that network is itself God’s creation and teaches us about our Creator. Creation itself is a great example of humility. Despite the ignorance and abuse with which we have treated creation, it continues to reach out to us and offer us life. In acknowledging the beauty of creation, we acknowledge the beauty of God and our own inner beauty. *The Happiest Heart* by John Vance Cheney:

Who drives the horses of the sun
shall lord it but a day;
better the lowly deed were done,
and kept the humble way!

The rust will find the sword of fame,
the dust will hide the crown;
ay, none shall nail so high his name
time will not tear it down.

The happiest heart that ever beat
was in some quiet breast
that found the common daylight sweet,
and left to Heaven the rest.