

Reflection Thursday Lent 2 – 2021

Jesus was big enough to recognise that whatever he did, however many miracles he performed, even rising from the dead would not necessarily lead people to faith. Once we have made up our minds about someone, nothing they say or do will change our opinion of them. Even preachers assume they know what people need! Much in our lives is based on assumptions which is why it is always better to think positively about others and think the best of them. Better err on the side of goodness and charity than on negativity about others.

A story: A married couple was returning from the funeral of Uncle George, who had lived with them for twenty years and had been such a nuisance that he almost succeeded in wrecking their marriage. *“There is something I have to say to you, dear,”* said the man. *“If it hadn’t been for my love for you, I wouldn’t have put up with your Uncle George for a single day.”* *“My Uncle George!”* she exclaimed in horror. *“I thought he was your Uncle George!”*

Obviously, Uncle George won out on that assumption!!

In Jesus’ story today note that the rich man (dives) has no name while the poor man is named Lazarus. The no-names are presented as people only concerned about themselves, so much so, they are unaware of others or regard others of no importance. Is not this why we are named in Baptism and our name is precious in the eyes of God whatever life has in store for us. We can of course relinquish our names by focusing only on ourselves, to the detriment of others. The pandemic has revealed that the vast majority of people have been and are concerned about the welfare of others and reached out to them, believers and non-believers alike. It is reassuring to know that the love of God is very much alive in people and the pandemic has resurrected the life and love of God in them.

Pope Francis in *Laudato Si, Care for our Common Home* writes, *“How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance or endlessly recurring cycles! The Creator can say to each one of us: “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you” (Jer 1:5). We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason “each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary”.*[39]