

Reflection Tuesday Lent 2 – 2021

There was once a famous preacher. People would flock to his church every week to hear him preach and were deeply touched by his sermons. This went on year after year. The preacher was happy to be able to bring people to God and open their hearts to God's love. So, every day we would spend time in prayer thanking God for his great gift. However, one thing annoyed him. Every time he preached, he saw an old man sitting at the back of the church saying his rosary and who never seemed to listen to the preacher even though he was there every week. Eventually, in his prayer of thanksgiving to God, he asked God why that old man saying his rosary seemed unaffected by his preaching. After asking this question many, many times, God eventually said. "*If it wasn't for that old man saying his rosary, nobody would be moved by your preaching.*"

Preachers often call people to be humble but do not explain what it means. Being humble is about recognising the truth about one's relationship with others and with God. It is not about being better or worse than another person or making yourself worse than someone else. Humility supposes that our relationship with God is one of thanksgiving and of love, recognising God's immense love for us shown to us through his son, Jesus. Humility is being thankful for all the people one encounters in life, the good and the bad, and recognising the gifts they have to offer even if we only learn not live like the bad person. Humility is recognising that all one has is gift from God and that people too are gift. Humility is recognising one's ability to treat everyone with dignity, respect and honour, no matter who they are. Humility is the desire to bless all those we encounter and that all those we encounter bless us with their presence and that the source of this blessing is the love and goodness of God. With this kind of humility which is itself God's gift, there is absolutely no time or place to put oneself before or above others.