

Reflection Friday Easter Week 2 – 2021

The early Christians owed Gamaliel a great thanks. It is tempting to think that when it became obvious that the Christian message was of God, he even became a Christian. One of his foremost disciples, Saul of Tarsus, did become a Christian - a very prominent one. Gamaliel is a good example of God working in mysterious ways through people one least expects.

In feeding the people, Jesus reminds us, once again, that he was aware of the people's needs rather than on what he was going to do or say. People always came first for him and he trusted that his Father and the Spirit would guide him into making the best choices of how to help them. Jesus' preparation for his ministry lay in the fact that he shared fully in the joys, sufferings, challenges, victories and failures of the people in his own town of Nazareth. So, he knew the hearts of the people to whom he spoke and helped. His teaching is full of compassion and empathy, so much so, he avoided any personal acclaim or adulation. Jesus speaks more to the heart than to the mind. In Jesus we are truly blessed.

They have so much in common compassion and empathy;

and those who possess them are blessed 'twould seem to me.

For these are rare gifts in the Human World today

where many are poor and homeless and, in life, have lost their way.

Those with compassion and empathy, in words never put others down;

and you never will find them amongst the judgemental of the town.

They feel for the suffering of others; more of their type we need,

for their kindness and generosity of spirit, as good people they succeed.

Those with compassion and empathy, always helping people in poverty;

they help the homeless and the destitute and they help the refugee.

If everyone were like them, there would be no poverty, no crime,

and war, that causes death and suffering, would be of another time.

But not everyone is like them which does seem sad to say,

so, for those with compassion and empathy let us hear a loud hooray. **Francis Duggan**

A lawyer asked a witness when his birthday was.

Witness: "20th August."

Lawyer: "What year?"

Witness: "Every year."