

Reflection Saturday Week 12 – 2021

On my first visit to India, I arrived at a house of Religious Sisters who welcomed me in the traditional Indian style placing a red dot on my forehead and a garland of flowers round my neck. They told me that this was the customary Hindu way of greeting a stranger because the stranger could be a god. This belief was also common in Abraham's day. In his case the three angels delivered God's message, a message of life that would continue Abraham's line across the ages of time. We find in the story the presence of the Trinity as depicted in the famous icon by Andrei Rublev. In fact, we should greet not only all strangers but also friends and family as messengers of God, because they are, if we are open to the fact. Recently, I visited a person in a care home who has a tumour on the brain that has left her speechless and almost unable to communicate. Her husband showed her so much love and care. He spoke to her with such tenderness and gentleness, that love and goodness filled the room. I have never experienced or been so moved before by such love as I was there. It brought tears to my eyes. This was a tangible experience of how much God loves each of us. It left me speechless. Despite all the horrors, debauchery, callous brutality and injustice in the world, there is an overpowering presence of Love all around us. The story of Jesus is the greatest love story ever told but it is a story retold time and time again in so many lives. Praise be the God of love! Praise be Jesus Christ!