

Reflection Thursday Week 18 – 2021

The Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major. The Council of Ephesus in 431 formally proclaimed the mother of Jesus as the *'Mother of God'*. The basilica of St Mary Major on the Esquiline Hill in Rome was built in commemoration of her motherhood. This is the oldest church in the West dedicated to Our Lady. The title "Mother of God" emphasises the central truth of the Incarnation, that Jesus Christ was truly man but also God; and not only God, but man born of a woman.

The media unhesitatingly writes about the rise and fall of someone famous which usually covers many years. Peter's rise and fall happened within hours, from proclaiming Jesus as the Christ, the saviour, to being called Satan. We, too, proclaim our faith in Jesus as the Christ, the saviour of the world, and yet we too make mistakes some of which are dreadful. Just as Jesus did not go back on his promise to Peter as leader of the Church, Jesus does not go back on his promise to us as one of his followers.

Ironically, we have less difficulty accepting the Divinity of Christ because of his resurrection than we do accepting his humanity. Jesus did not sin but he experienced all of our human emotions including anger, disappointment and despair. He had times of great joy and success, times of peace and calm but also times of grief and sorrow, abandonment and grief. His humanity underpins his mercy and forgiveness and his desire to lift us up when we fall.

One of the best ways to open ourselves to the humanity of Christ is in the beatitudes which express the true humanity of Jesus who was: -

Poor in Spirit, one who Mourns, is truly Lowly. He hungers for Justice, is utterly Merciful and Pure of Heart, who tirelessly works for Peace accepting Persecution even unto death out of love for us!

- Why can't humans hear a dog whistle? – Because dogs can't whistle.
- Little Johnny was really struck when they told him that Eve was created from one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as if he was sick, and said, "Johnny what's the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."