

Reflection Friday Week 24 – 2021

In Luke's gospel we are made aware that women were prominent members of Jesus' disciples and mentioned by name. Today is the feast of St Hildegard of Bingen a prominent Saint in the 12th Century who offered valued advice to both Popes and Princes. Since Vatican II, the Church has recognised the value of women but done very little until recently to include them in the decision making of the Church. One would hope with the coming Synod encouraged by Pope Francis for very diocese not only will their role be recognised but they will be afforded their rightful place in the Church from which the whole Church will greatly benefit.

Pope Francis:

"That women in society must be involved in decision-making is not only right for reasons of equality, but also for the specific insights that women bring to the process. This "feminine genius" will prove most valuable as women increasingly play major roles in the solution of the serious challenges the world faces."

"When women have the opportunity to fully pass on their gifts to the entire community, the very manner by which society is understood and organized becomes positively transformed by it, managing to better reflect the substantial unity of the human family."

"The Church acknowledges the indispensable contribution that women make to society through the sensitivity, intuition and other distinctive skill sets which they, more than men, tend to possess. I think, for example, of the special concern which women show to others, which finds a particular, even if not exclusive, expression in motherhood."

"I encourage the contribution of so many women who work within the family, in the areas of teaching the faith, pastoral work, schooling, but also in social, cultural and economic structures. You women know how to embody the tender face of God, his mercy, which is translated into a willingness to give time rather than to occupy space, to welcome rather than to exclude."