

Reflection Wednesday Week 30 – 2021

Jesus was a great theologian because he rarely answers people's questions. Today he does not give a number of who will be saved but explains how to enter heaven, not necessarily in the way one might think: choosing the path less travelled, entering by the narrow door, not assuming you are worthy of heaven because you live a good life. By offering people extreme situations, Jesus was hoping that people will ask themselves *what am I doing to take the right road to heaven?* The synodal journey ask us to reflect on our journey together and to share the highs and lows of that journey particularly through the many months of the pandemic. In listening to each other, besides being challenged, hopefully we will be enriched and encouraged by what others have experienced. We grow closer to people who share the intimacies of their lives with us and it encourages us to do the same. We begin to see how we can better help each other. Difficulties and disagreements no longer cause division but challenge our beliefs and help clarify the understanding we have of our faith and our relationship with the Church – they are positives.

Extract from the Tablet (Frank Callus)

Synodality changes the dynamics of our faith. It calls for increased participation and greater collaboration, a sharing of the burdens and a commitment to co-responsibility. It demands that we move from deference to respect, from passive to active, from occasional to permanence. It marks the point at which lay Catholics move from adolescence to adulthood, with the opportunities and responsibilities that come from that change.

It has been possible, in the past to blame the episcopate or clergy when projects fail to deliver. In establishing a synodal process Pope Francis has passed the responsibility for the future direction and influence of the Church to all the People of God. We, lay or cleric, cannot shirk that responsibility. The responsibility for a successful process does not lie just at the door of the Bishop; it is a responsibility on all of us