

Reflection Monday Week 31 – 2021

Normally we would celebrate All Saints today, instead we have the ferial readings.

Jesus challenges our hidden agendas for it is impossible to be truly open and transparent if you have a hidden agenda. Jesus won salvation for us and offers it to us with absolutely no strings, no conditions, no hidden agendas.

The question is do we live with the same sort of freedom helping, guiding, supporting others purely for their benefit and goodness? This is much more difficult. We will always have some sort of benefit if only seeing someone smile or uplifted because of our help, or we learn something about ourselves and something about God. St Paul makes it clear that everything we do and are comes from God - everything. Whenever we thank someone for their help, care, support, we are really thanking God who is working through that person.

As COP26 begins The Earth Project states: *The planet faces the twin threats of climate change and biodiversity loss. We cannot solve one without addressing the other. Around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades. The latest IPCC document states that “it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, oceans and land”. The already stressed and degraded ecosystems face increasing risk from climate change, leading to further biodiversity loss, threatening people’s food security, livelihoods, and wellbeing. It is hoped that awareness of these challenges will be forcefully made at COP26. Globally, governments must be pushed to accelerate efforts towards net zero emissions and potentially limit the planet to 1.5 degrees warming. To achieve a sustainable future, we need to fix climate change, protect nature, reduce consumption and biodiversity loss. Our existence is supported by the rich geodiversity of planet Earth, the only planet known to support life.* There is no hidden agenda here!!!

- Why do you never see elephants hiding in trees? Because they’re really good at it.
- A horse walks into a bar. The bartender says, “Why the long face?”
- Why don’t seagulls fly over the bay? Because then they’d be called bagels.