

## Reflection Monday Week 33 St Albert the Great – 2021

**Albert the Great (1206 - 1280)** was born at Lauingen, Germany, and studied at Padua and Paris before joining the Dominicans. He taught in the University of Paris where St Thomas Aquinas studied under him. He was one of the greatest philosophers of the Middle Ages, coming at the beginning of the rediscovery of the works of Aristotle. He had a great interest in science and astronomy, leading to him becoming a *Doctor Universalis*, a “Universal Doctor.” In 1260 the Pope made him Bishop of Regensburg, which he kept for three years before resigning. He made great efforts to secure peace between people and cities. He died in Cologne in 1280.

In his Gospel, Mark names the Blind man Bartimaeus. Being unnamed by Luke offers the opportunity to identify with the blind man. We often lack sight, frequently without knowing it. It is significant that the Blind man immediately follows Jesus. He wants more than sight; he wants a better understanding of Jesus and his mission and, in order to do this, he had to journey with Jesus. We have discovered over the years that there is always more to see when journeying with Jesus.

This is a good story to keep in mind as we enter into the Synodal process which invites us to share our experiences of travelling with Jesus and what we have discovered. In listening and learning from each other, we will have new insights and see more clearly the road on which we travel and where it is leading us, still aware there will always be more to see along the way.

With the psalmist we call upon the Lord to *give us life to do the Lord's will with greater love, commitment and determination.*