

### **Reflection Saturday Week 33 – 2021**

In the early days of religion God was believed to be a master puppeteer. If you were good and did what God asked of you, you were blessed and prospered and everything went well particularly in war. Similarly, if you offended God in any way, you would be punished and things would not go well, including in war. This is evident in King Antiochus. It is still a belief many hold today. Although Faith is rational and can be reasonably explained, it is unable to argue that faith is a gift from God any more than falling in love with someone happens through reason. In fact, all virtues are far, far greater than their explanations, however good these may be. Some believe you can fully explain truth but Jesus is the truth and we are far from being able to fully explain Jesus, let alone fully understand him. In the gospel the scribes back off from Jesus after his successful defence in answering their challenge. But, despite suffering so many reasoned defeats, they could not believe in Jesus and eventually found a way to have him put to death. Like love, Faith is so much more than its explanation and the synodal process we are living will help us discover this. Faith is a gift to be cherished and lived. It inspires and motivates; it stimulates life, releases courage and the ability to act. It urges us to give thanks and praise to God, to ask for God's help and seek his mercy and forgiveness. It is the faith of the people, of the laity, on which the Church is built, perseveres and is sustained. The synodal process will make this more evident. Your participation is earnestly desired. In fact, it is vital.