

## Reflection Saturday week 34 – 2021

On the eve of Advent, we are already being called to be attentive, to stay awake and to pray. Major themes of the Advent season. Advent is a season of expectation. All the warnings Jesus gives about the end times only heightens our expectations of the coming of Christ this Christmas and what we hope he will bring us this year. Being alert to impending dangers always makes us more attentive and more sensitive to what is happening around us. Hopefully our hopes will begin with our families but equally reach out to those around us, especially those in special need. However busy, let us always make time for daily prayer, an essential element of our Advent preparations.

Pope Francis says that faith filled joy is not an intellectual conclusion, but the result of a personal encounter with God's love. *Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrow mindedness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God carry us over and above ourselves in order to reach the deepest truths of our lives. In God's love, we find the source and inspiration of all the efforts we make to evangelise and live the gospel faithfully. For if we have received the love of God which restores meaning to our lives, how can we ever fail to want to share that love with others? Now is the time, therefore, to say to Jesus: "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace".*

**What do you call a line of men waiting for a haircut?** A barber – queue

**I arrived early at the restaurant.** The manager said "Would you mind waiting a bit?" I said "OK!" "Good," he said. "Take these drinks to table nine."