

Reflection Saturday 8th January 2022

If we only reflected on the many ways in which God shows and has shown his love for us during our lives, it would be next Christmas before we knew it! One of the greatest blessings and privileges for a priest is to experience the love of God in the people he meets, in both individuals and families. One of the blessings of the synodal encounters has been that in the encounters people have experienced this love in others and it has evoked a deeper sense of their own love, even when speaking about their difficulties, challenges and disappointments. John gives us that impression in his first letter very often this week. The Gospel miracle of feeding so many reveals that the love of Jesus feeds both soul and body. We all know that love does that to us which is why Jesus eventually goes on to say *Eat my Body and drink my Blood*. Love is fully satisfying. What is truly most important in being invited to share a meal with others and sharing one's meal with others is the love with which it is prepared and served. However good the meal, it is the love that makes everything taste even better.

From Young to Old *(Adapted)*

The story of life from young to old
is the same old story told over and over.
We start out and end in nappies.
We start out and end with no teeth.
We start out and end eating soft foods we do not like.
We start out and end falling down.
We start out and end needing care.
We start out and end crying day and night.
We start out with nothing and end taking nothing with us.
But we do have the precious time between young and old
to live a life of **love** with and for others.
The story of life is a story of LOVE.

An air-flight steward had to make the following painful announcement: *Ladies and gentleman, I'm so very sorry but there has been a terrible error by our catering service. We have 103 passengers on board and only 40 dinner meals. I truly apologize for this mistake and inconvenience.*

When the passenger muttering has died down, she continued, *"Anyone who is kind enough to give up their meal so that someone else can eat will receive free, unlimited drinks for the duration of our flight."*

Her next announcement came 90 minutes later. *"If anyone would like to change their minds, we still have 40 dinners available."*