

Reflection Thursday Week 6, the Seven holy Founders of the Servites 2022

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order. In the early 13th century seven young Florentines formed a confraternity of laymen devoted to the praise of Mary. In 1233, after a vision on the feast of the Assumption, they took up the life of hermits on Monte Senario outside Florence. They went preaching throughout Tuscany and founded the order of the Servants of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Servites. They received Papal approval in 1304. Their feast is celebrated today because one of the seven, Saint Alexius Falconieri, died on 17th February 1310.

Mark is clear that people understood Jesus and who he was in different ways. Their understanding was shaped by their experience of him and the stories they had heard about him. Yet, they all fell short of who Jesus was. It is no wonder that Peter was angry to hear that Jesus would be rejected and face despicable suffering. It did not fit Peter's picture of Jesus.

How often do we misunderstand and misrepresent people because of what we have heard and our experiences of them??

There was once a very wise and well-respected man who was invited to a banquet for the rich and famous. He decided to turn up dressed as a beggar. Not only was he not recognised but he was roughly turned away and told not to return. Later he came back dressed in rich, elegant clothes. He was welcomed and ushered into the banquet Hall. After a short while he started taking food off the tables and stuffing it into every pocket available. The people present were all aghast and asked him what he was doing. He explained that, when he had come looking like a beggar, he had been treated roughly and thrown out but, when he returned in elegant finery, he was made most welcome. Since I was the same person on both occasions it is only the clothes that I am wearing that allowed me to be present so I am feeding my clothes since the person inside them doesn't matter to you!!!

- A new variant of head lice has appeared and they are resistant to conventional treatments. This has left scientists scratching their heads!!!
- A giant wolf appeared in a field of sheep and lambs and swallowed a whole baby lamb. The lamb whined and yelped nonstop for hours on end. After a while the wolf started feeling sick, and the lamb yelped and whined even louder. Finally, the wolf died and the baby lamb climbed out of the wolf and re-joined its mother. Turns out **the wolf died of internal bleating.**