

## Reflection Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Week Lent 2022

It is only natural for a mother to want her sons to be as close to Jesus as possible. He was loving, kind and considerate. A man evidently full of compassion and goodness that overflowed on those open to him. She saw in Jesus everything that she wanted her sons to be. Quite rightly she realised that being close to someone like Jesus meant that all his great qualities would rub off onto them – and they did. What she did not realise was that they would also face lives of rejection, martyrdom and exile, like Jeremiah. The Lenten season often reminds us that being a follower, a friend, a brother of Jesus will not always be easy and we will not always be appreciated or welcomed. Think of the many excellent and saintly followers of Christ in Ukraine who have lost their lives or lost loved ones, been seriously injured, and who have prayed for release from the hostilities, not of their own making, to no avail. Lent is teaching us a great deal about the real tragedy of any kind of war where so many innocent people lose their lives on both sides. This year we are onlookers of a present day but no less real enactment of the passion of Christ!

### **The tragedy of war,**

ends not with those who died  
for the tragedy continues  
in fragile minds who did survive.

For those whose names appear  
on brass plaque or marble stone  
are the only ones amongst us  
for whom war is truly gone.

The survivors of man's biggest crime  
their wars will have no end;  
guilt, despair and bitterness  
their constant hateful friend.

It's hard to feel like hero's,  
no matter what you say,  
when you're torn by guilt  
that you're not the one  
in that green field far away.

So I say to leaders of this world  
this nightmare should be gone.  
Please realise once and for all  
that a **war is never won!** (A Thomas Hawkins)

**Pope Francis:** *"Jesus' sorrowful and strong, 'No more' at his arrest, is a commandment we cannot avoid. 'No more' swords, weapons, violence, war. That 'No more' is an echo of the ancient commandment, 'Thou shall not kill.' How can there be Christians who manufacture 'swords' that others will use to kill? Listen to the passionate plea of the Lord. Stop selling weapons. There are no justifications for this.*