

Reflection Friday 5th Week Lent 2022

Being rejected is one of the greatest challenges life can throw at us. John has spent several days reflecting on the Jewish Leaders' rejection of Jesus. Today, in saying that that *the Law says we are Gods*, Jesus underlines that we are all special in God's eyes.

Who are we, then, to speak or act otherwise?

Multiple wars happening at present clearly deny this fact and, although we cannot stop wars ourselves, we can live showing that everyone is special in God's eyes.

In society today there are issues around gender, the role and status of women, the exploitation of children, and the arms trade. Issues that wish to deny our specialness and want us to believe that money is far more important than people!!

Pope Francis declares otherwise:

- *"I think that the Church should not only apologise ... to a gay person whom it offended but it must also apologise to the poor as well, to the women who have been exploited, to children who have been exploited by (being forced to) work. It must apologise for having blessed so many weapons."*
- *"Sometimes it happens that you feel disappointed, discouraged, abandoned by all: but God does not forget his children, he never abandons them! He is always at our side, especially in trying times."*
- Standing before the Cross: *"Let us carry in our minds and hearts the sufferings of the sick, the poor, the rejected of this world; we will remember the "sacrificed lambs", innocent victims of wars, dictatorships, daily violence, abortions. Before the image of the crucified God, we will bring in prayer the many, the too many who are crucified in our time, who can only receive from Him the comfort and the meaning of their suffering. Ever since Jesus took upon himself the wounds of humanity and death itself, God's love has irrigated these deserts of ours, he has enlightened our darkness."*

We must be special to God!!