

## Reflection Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Week Lent 2022

Motives behind our actions are so important. People spend much time seeking the motives behind Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Because of the evil motives behind Susannah's accusers, they were eventually found out. The gospels recently challenge the motives behind the Scribes and Pharisees rejection of Jesus. Before forming any kind of opinion or judgement, we must always question our motives. Today Jesus shows us how he can help. He is, as John often repeats, the Light, a light that shines in the darkness, a light that shows us the way if we let him. At baptism Jesus promises to be our light in the faith he gives to us. A lighted candle is used as a concrete sign of that faith and of Jesus' promise to us. At the easter vigil, when the light of Christ has seemingly been extinguished, the resurrection of Christ is symbolised by the lighting of the Easter candle from the new fire; symbolising not only the rebirth of Christ but a new life for each of us. The resurrection light renews our faith in such a way that we will be capable of facing what the days and weeks ahead will throw at us. It is a light that purifies our actions and understanding of our faith. It is a light to help us choose our actions for the right motives focusing on the good of others, like Jesus. It encourages us not to condemn others but seek ways of helping them for their own good as well as for the common good.

**Joyce Rupp:** *Divine Light shines in those who live in Love. I shall uphold all who are burdened with fear, and raise up all who call to Me. The time is nigh for you to choose, for great is the new dawn that fast approaches; I call each of you to open your inner ears, to see with spiritual eyes, and to trust that even amidst the outward chaos, all is working toward the wholeness of humanity.*