

## **Reflection Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Week Easter 2022**

As this first community of believers in Jesus Christ grew it continually faced new challenges and yet they found positive ways to respond to them and continue to spread the Good News. Recognising the importance of preaching the Gospel as the top priority, they sought help to meet the challenge of caring for an ever-expanding community and its needs. Today Pope Francis recognises the vast population of believers he is called to serve and the lack of those teaching the Good News and caring for the community. By calling for a synod of the laity and seeking to listen to their voice, Pope Francis recognises not just their vast numbers but also their ability to assist in responding to this challenge. The faith of that early community in the power and desire of the Holy Spirit to guide their decisions led them to choosing 7 laymen whom today we would call deacons. Using this model of working with the laity to spread the good news and acknowledging their importance in practically responding to those in need within the community, is one that the Church needs to adopt today more universally, especially in the developed areas of the world. This model in which the laity take the lead in the faith community exists today in many developing countries where priests are scarce and lay catechists help keep the faith alive and flourishing in their local communities. The wealth of inspiring faith stories taking place among the lay faithful often go unnoticed and unspoken, leaving the Church the poorer for it. The synod offers the possibility of opening the door to more lay involvement and show its deep respect for them and the desire to allow the Holy Spirit to work through them and through you!!