

## **Wednesday of Holy Week** (Spy Wednesday – betrayal of Judas) **2022**

*Adapted from a piece (For the feint Hearted)*

As we reflect on current realities, isolation, distance and loneliness have filled many of our thoughts. The Gospels create a sense of Jesus' growing isolation. His experiences might offer encouragement to all who face isolation.

Jesus is aware of Judas' intentions, aware of what would happen, yet not once does he share fully with his friends what Judas will do. At the Last Supper, when Jesus tells Judas to go, it is possible the disciples assumed Judas is being sent on an errand.

To know you are going to be betrayed, worse, to know that someone who has been trusted by all of your friends is a traitor, must create a feeling of intense isolation. Could anything have been said? To have shared Judas' secret could have brought a sense of bewilderment among the disciples. Could anything have been done to make a difference?

The betrayal reveals the isolation of Jesus, it reveals the distance between himself and his friends. Maybe Jesus wanted to reach out to Judas. Maybe he wanted to help Judas in the struggle he was going through. How much did his love for God and his love for us and for Judas help or increase his own struggle and sense of isolation? For some, isolation leaves them totally focused on themselves, on what has happened and how things could have been different if other decisions had been made. Jesus' isolation would have focused his mind on his friends, those he loved and, today, particularly on Judas?

### **Pope Francis:**

*Think of the small Judas that each one of us has within at the hour of choice: between loyalty or interest. Each one of us has the ability to betray, to sell, to choose for one's own interest. Each one of us has the opportunity to let ourselves be attracted by love of money or goods or future well-being. "Judas, where are you?" "You, Judas, the little Judas within me: where are you?"*