

## Reflection Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Week Easter St Catherine of Siena 2022

**St Catherine (1347 - 1380)** was born in Siena and, seeking perfection, entered the Third Order of the Dominicans in her teens. In 1370, commanded by a vision, she left her seclusion and entered public life. She wrote letters to many major public figures and had a long correspondence with Pope Gregory XI, urging him to reform the clergy and the administration of the Papal States. She burned with the love of God and her neighbour. She became an ambassador for peace and harmony between cities. She strongly defended the liberty and rights of the Popes and did much for the renewal of religious life. She also dictated books full of sound doctrine and spiritual inspiration. She died on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1380. In 1970 Pope Paul VI declared her a Doctor of the Church.

Catherine certainly lived in the light of Christ in such a way that she was able not only to inspire popes and church leaders but also her fellow religious as well as the laity.

In her own words:

- *“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”*
- *“Proclaim the truth and do not be silent through fear.”*
- *“Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring.”*
- *“Every step of the way to heaven is heaven.”*
- *“We've had enough exhortations to be silent. Cry out with a thousand tongues - I see the world is rotten because of silence.”*
- *“Speak the truth in a million voices. It is silence that kills.”*
- *“The soul is in God and God in the soul, just as the fish is in the sea and the sea in the fish.”*
- *“It is surely justice to share our natural gifts with those who share our nature.”*
- *“He who knows things as they are and not as they are said or seem to be is truly wise, and is taught of God more than of men.”*