

## Reflection Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Week Easter 2022

Does it not seem strange to be commanded to do something that we deeply want to do anyway – to Love? But, how else can Jesus underline the importance of love in our lives? Maybe what we have to do is recognise that the word command means: *'to truly benefit from all that is best in the life I, God, have given you, an essential ingredient is making Love a priority in every area of your life.'* The ten commandments, the Decalogue, some call the ten words, are the essential rules for any society to be not only successful but to grow and develop healthily because God is placed at the beginning, the end and at the centre of its life.

**Pope Francis:** *To love like Christ means saying 'no' to other 'loves' that the world offers us: love of money – those who love money do not love as Jesus loves - love of success, vanity, of power. These deceptive paths of 'love' distance us from the Lord's love and lead us to become more and more selfish, narcissistic, overbearing. And being overbearing leads to a degeneration of love, to the abuse of others, to making our loved ones suffer. To love as Jesus means to offer yourself in service of your brothers and sisters, as Jesus did in washing the feet of the disciples. It also means going outside ourselves, detaching ourselves from our own human certainties, from earthly comforts, in order to open ourselves up to others, especially those in greater need. It means making ourselves available, as we are and with what we have.*