

Reflection Thursday 5th Week Easter 2022

One of the greatest challenges of life that has plagued civilisation down through the ages is that people try to fit others into their image of who they should be. The question of circumcision in Acts was built on the belief that Christianity developed from the Jewish Faith. Hadn't Jesus been circumcised? Many disputes in the Church today are led by people who believe they know what God wants without asking God. Fortunately, the disciples of Jesus listened to God in prayerful reflection and allowed everyone a voice in the decision made. We would do well to recognise this. The synod of the laity offers the laity a greater voice in the future decision making of the Church and thus bless it in a special way.

"You can safely assume you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do." (Anne Lamott)

Pope Francis: *"Humanity constructs images of God that prevent us from appreciating His real presence. Some offer a 'do-it-yourself' faith that reduces God to limited spaces of personal desires and convictions. This faith is not conversion to the revealed Lord; on the contrary, it prevents us from challenging our life and our conscience. Others reduce God to a false idol, using His holy name to justify pursuit of their interests including hatred and violence. For others, God is a psychological refuge providing reassurance in difficult moments, a faith wrapped up in itself and impermeable to the merciful love of Jesus that drives us towards our brothers/sisters. Others suffocate faith in a purely intimist relationship with Jesus, annulling its missionary drive that is able to transform the world and history. The Christian believes in the God of Jesus Christ, and his wish is that of growing in the living experience of His mystery of love."*

A 999 operator: What's your emergency?

Man: A chap just got hit by a car, I need an ambulance.

Operator: What's your location?

Man: I'm on **eucalyptus** street.

Operator: Can you spell that out for me?

Man: (long awkward pause)

Operator: Sir? Are you there?

Man: I'm just dragging him over to **pine** street and will call you right back.