

## Reflection Friday Week 13 Dedication of the Cathedral 2022

*Adapted from a homily by Pope Benedict given at the cathedral dedicated to the Most Precious Blood. (2010)*

On the cross Our Lord's hands are extended inviting us to contemplate our participation in his eternal priesthood and therefore our responsibility, as members of his body, to bring the reconciling power of his sacrifice to the world in which we live. The Second Vatican Council spoke eloquently of the indispensable role of the laity in carrying forward the Church's mission through their efforts to serve as a leaven of the Gospel in society and to work for the advancement of God's Kingdom in the world (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 31; *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, 7). The Council appealed to the lay faithful to take up their baptismal sharing in Christ's mission echoing the insights and teachings of John Henry Newman who calls us to offer every thought, word and action to Christ, and to work strenuously to defend those unchanging moral truths illuminated in and confirmed by the Gospel. Truths that stand at the foundation of a truly humane, just and free society.

How much contemporary society needs this witness! How much we need to witness to the beauty of holiness, the splendour of truth and the freedom born of a living relationship with Christ! One of the greatest challenges facing us today is how to speak convincingly of the wisdom and liberating power of God's word to a world which often sees the Gospel as a constriction of human freedom, instead of the truth which liberates our minds and enlightens our efforts to live wisely and well.

Dear friends, I invite you to look to Christ, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection (cf. *Heb 12:2*). I ask you to unite yourselves ever more fully to the Lord, sharing in his sacrifice on the Cross and offering him that "spiritual worship" (*Rom 12:1*) which embraces every aspect of our lives and finds expression in our efforts to contribute to the coming of his Kingdom. I pray that, in doing so, you may join the ranks of faithful believers throughout the long Christian history of this land in building a truly worthy society.

**What are these pennies doing in my soup?"** the restaurant patron demanded, motioning for the waiter to come over to his table.

The waiter walked over and whispered... **"You said you would stop eating here if there wasn't some change in the food."**