

## Reflection Thursday Week 10 Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest 2022

**In his encyclical “Mediator Dei” Pius XII writes:** *Christ is a Priest not for himself but for us. In the name of the whole human race, Christ brings our prayers and devotions to the eternal Father. However, Christ is also a victim for us, since he substitutes himself for sinners. St Paul writes “Let the mind that was in Christ Jesus be also in you,” and demands that all Christians possess, as far as humanly possible, the same dispositions as those which the divine Redeemer had when he offered himself in sacrifice: with a humble attitude, we should offer adoration, honour, praise and thanksgiving to the supreme majesty of God. Moreover, it demands that we assume in some way the condition of a victim and deny ourselves as the Gospel commands. So that freely and of our own accord we do penance and detest and make satisfaction for our sins. It demands that we undergo with Christ a mystical death on the Cross so that we can apply to ourselves the words of St Paul, “I have been crucified with Christ” (Gal 2:19).*

This feast of Jesus offers great comfort. There are no *no-go areas* for the Son of God or for His Church. Priesthood involves entering both good and bad places for the salvation of the world knowing that darkness can be overcome by the light of the Gospel. The Church does not shy away from relationship break-up, the pandemic, our own sinfulness or our failure to pray. Her priestly nature calls her to those places to forgive and to offer sacrifice to God. Today the Church is challenged to rededicate herself to her priestly vocation and go to dangerous places telling those with authority where things need to change. May we know ourselves to be a priestly people and so offer ourselves in the service of Christ.