

## Reflection Friday Week 19 – 2022

A writer unfolds a story full of riches many of which not even the writer is aware. This is true about the story of Jesus which speaks of self-sacrifice, dedication and commitment, a deep love for others and a deep love for his Father. His story inspires people to want to do more and be more for God, as Jesus did although not necessarily in the same way. One might ask what a gospel expressing the importance and value of marriage has to do with Jesus who remained celibate. But isn't the gospel speaking about balance? "Male and female he made them." It is together they form the image of God. Ezekiel adds the important element of dignity. Human dignity is a foundation stone of life on which much depends. It underpins all that we do in living and being true to the Gospel.

As **Pope Francis** says: *If we do not take care of one another, starting with the least, with those who are most impacted, including creation, we cannot heal the world. Let us thank God for the efforts of so many who offered evidence of human and Christian love for neighbour, dedicating themselves to the sick even at the risk of their own health during the pandemic. If we are guided by faith, however, we recognize God creates men and women, not as objects, but as people loved and capable of loving, in His image and likeness. Jesus proposes a life of service and of giving one's life for others as he did. We must recognize the human dignity in every person, whatever his or her race may be. The Second Vatican Council emphasizes that this dignity is inalienable because it "was created 'to the image of God.'" In modern culture, the reference closest to the principle of the inalienable dignity of the person is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which Saint John Paul II defined as a 'milestone on the long and difficult path of the human race.'*

**'A jump-lead walks into a bar. The barman says "I'll serve you, but don't start anything" '**