

### Reflection Monday Week 23 – 2022

Once again Jesus embarrasses the Scribes and Pharisees who only have themselves to blame. If they were people of good intention, they would have been happy that the man with the crippled hand was healed and would have rejoiced with him. Jesus showed up their duplicity. It even suggests that they were the crippled ones, crippled by their own duplicity and deceit. It seems that, in the apocryphal writings, the man in the gospel is described as a stone mason who asks Jesus to heal his hand so that he could return to his trade and earn his living rather than have to beg to keep himself and his family alive. The Jewish Law actually states that if it comes to a question of saving life and keeping the sabbath, saving life comes first. This the Scribes and Pharisees would have known.

We are being asked to always reach out to those in need; a cry that will become ever louder in this time of cutbacks and soaring prices.

May the Lord help us to help others in whatever way we can.

**The barrister tells** the accused, “I have some good news and some bad news.” “What’s the bad news?” asks the accused. “The bad news is, your blood is all over the crime scene, and the DNA tests prove you did it.” “What’s the good news?” “Your cholesterol is 130.”