

Reflection Thursday Week 29 – 2022

It is clear that Jesus realised how radical his teaching was for the people of his day. It divided families, it led people to great hardship and suffering and, in the early days, often to the loss of life. By the time Luke wrote his gospel all this had happened. Luke does not include this to frighten us but to make clear the radical nature of Jesus teaching and what is demanded of us. Living the gospel leads to hard decisions. We are made aware of climate activists gluing themselves to places to disrupt movement or activity because they see us destroying the world and creation for future generations. Once the world starts to implode there will be no stopping it.

We are facing radical decisions in terms of food and utilities. Many will starve, even freeze to death, unless others offer support to help them. Church communities and others are offering warm places for people to gather so they do not need to stay in cold or freezing premises. Our parish is a hub offering food to many in need and, although much food that was once thrown away is now being eaten, there is less and less surplus food to go round. Reducing our use of heating and other utilities is also a way of helping the environment heal itself by decreasing the production of harmful gases.

Caring for others includes caring for refugees living in our midst who can help us as a nation and share with us the riches of their cultures. Living the gospel in this way is fed by the power of the Spirit as St Paul tells us. The fire of God, rather than being a deterrent, urges us on and energises us into a greater and more positive response.