**Reflection Thursday Week 32 St Leo the Great 2022**

**Pope St Leo the Great** was born in Etruria and became Pope in 440. He was a true shepherd and father of souls. He constantly strove to keep the faith whole and strenuously defended the unity of the Church. He repelled the invasions of the barbarians or alleviated their effects, famously persuading Attila the Hun not to march on Rome in 452, and prevented the invading Vandals from massacring the population in 455. Leo left many doctrinal and spiritual writings behind, a number of which are included in the Office of Readings. He died in 461.

* *No one, however weak, is denied a share in the victory of the cross. No one is beyond the help of the prayer of Christ.*
* *Peace is the first thing the angels sang. Peace is the mark of the children of God. Peace is the nurse of love. Peace is the mother of unity. Peace is the rest of the blessed souls. Peace is the dwelling place of eternity.*
* *Virtue is nothing without the trial of temptation, for there is no conflict without an enemy, no victory without strife.*
* *Let no one be ashamed of the cross by which Christ has redeemed the world. None of us must be afraid to suffer for the sake of justice or doubt the fulfilment of the promises, for it is through toil that we come to rest and through death that we pass to life.*
* *And each one is a partaker of this spiritual origin in regeneration; and to everyone who is re-born, the water of baptism is like the Virgin's womb; for the same Holy Spirit fills the font Who filled the Virgin, that the sin, which that sacred conception overthrew, may be taken away by this mystical washing.*

An elderly nun in a convent next to a construction site noticed the coarse language of the workers and decided to try and correct their ways. So, she took her lunch and sat with the workers to talk with them. Putting her sandwich in a brown bag, with a big smile she walked up to them and asked: *“Do you men know Jesus Christ?”* They shook their heads and looked at each other… somewhat confused. Then one of the workers yelled to the workers up on the steelworks, *“Anybody up there know Jesus Christ?”* One of the steelworkers yelled down, *“Why?”* The worker yelled back, “*’Cause his wife’s here with his lunch.”*