

Reflection Friday Week 5 St Scholastica 2023

St Scholastica was born in Nursia about 480, the twin sister of St Benedict. She was dedicated to God from an early age and followed her brother to Cassino, where she died about 547.

The power of Love, God's love for us and our love for God. The challenge is discovering how this love affects our lives, our actions, our understanding, our decision making, our wisdom. The Song of Songs clearly understands any true love we have is inspired, sparked into life, by the fire of God's love. Only in recognising the origin of our love will we fully benefit from it.

Timothy Radcliffe OP: Even with people whom we love deeply, it is easy for calculation to slip in. Why do I always have to put out the bins? Isn't it her turn to do the cooking, I did it the last four nights. It is as if we have a limited amount of love, and we need to ration its distribution.

Jesus never gives just enough. At the marriage of Cana, when more wine was needed, he gives a vast amount of the very best. He approves of the woman who pours a whole jar of extremely expensive scent over his feet. One could argue that his Father could have forgiven sins just by a mere celestial edict. But no, there is this unimaginable act of love in which his Son gives himself, his body and blood. Every Eucharist is a celebration of uncalculatingly, over the top, love. God's love is un-rationed.

So, let a little of that divine folly touch our loves to free us from calculating how much love we have to spare. Nurses, doctors and care workers show a risky courageous love for the sick and vulnerable. The word "fond" comes from a word which means "foolish". May we be a little foolish in our loving.

All that we need to do is to do the good deeds which can be done today. God will give them the fruit that he wishes and which we may never know. God's providence is such that no act of love is wasted. All is gathered up.