

Reflection Friday 1st Week Lent 2023

Read Ezekiel carefully. God does not punish us for our sins as suggested in the Old Testament and used subsequently in Christianity. Any punishment for sins we have committed, we bring upon ourselves. This is what Jesus tried to teach us. But Jesus wanted us to do much more than keep the Law, keep the rules. He wants us to go further, what we call the extra mile. After helping others in any way, we should always ask the question: *Is there anything else I can do for you?* Something like the Good Samaritan.

St Vincent de Paul gave his life to serve the poor. He once gave his community the following instruction: *“When the demands of service seem unfair to us, when we are exhausted and have to pull ourselves out of bed yet another time to do some act of service, we should do it gladly, without counting the cost and without self-pity, for if we persevere in serving the poor, persevere to the point of completely spending ourselves, perhaps someday the poor will find it in their hearts to forgive us. “For it is more blessed to give than to receive . . . and it is also a lot easier!”*

We entered a world that is far from perfect and we can wonder why we have to work hard to right the wrongs caused by others. But think on this!

If we do nothing to help and provide creation with the ability to heal itself, we will not have a creation to care about. If we do nothing about the sins and consequences of sin around us, sin and evil will destroy the whole of humankind just as Ezekiel said.