

## Reflection Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Week Lent 2023

We are reminded clearly that we are now responsible and the carers of the kingdom of God which Jesus gave to us in baptism. How well are we doing with this responsibility?

*How do we understand the Kingdom of God?*

In the Assumption, we think of the Kingdom as a family that is alive and active. The Council of Vatican II called us a **Pilgrim People**. The kingdom is sharing a journey together, a journey of Faith that involves caring for others, supporting them, helping them, sustaining them. It is also a kingdom of sharing, sharing our hopes and dreams, our joys and our sorrows. Pope Francis recognised this when he called for the Synod of the Laity. Synod means journeying together. It is about being a kingdom people in which we serve each other with joy and dignity. As Jesus made clear, any help we give to another helps the whole family – all benefit, even the giver. The challenge we face is in sharing that spirit of family, of the kingdom, with others in a way that encourages them to want to become part of it.

**Pope Francis:** *Christ can never be separated from his Church, which he has made the great family of God's children. Let us ask ourselves how much do I love the Church? Do I pray for her? Do I feel myself a part of the family of the Church? What do I do to make the Church a community in which everyone feels welcomed and understood, [in which] everyone feels the mercy and love of God who renews life? Faith is a gift and an act that affects us personally, but God calls us to live our faith together, as a family: as the Church.*