

### **Reflection Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Week Lent 2023**

Down through history one lesson that has been repeated time and time and time again is that in order to undermine someone or a group we caricature them in a way that they need to be removed or are seen as people less than human. Many movements concerning racism and anti-human rights fall into this category. The Romans did this with the Carthaginians. The 2<sup>nd</sup> World War did the same for the Jewish people; the whites and blacks in America; the slavery movement. We must hang our heads in shame.

Yet, despite all this, God still wants to show us mercy, wants to forgive us and wants us to work together to build a better future, and will help us do this if we let him. What is deeply heart-warming and reassuring is the relationship Jesus has with his Father in heaven. The Father was such a great strength to him throughout those last weeks and days of his life. The Father will do the same for us if, like Jesus, we place our complete trust in him.

Lent offers us the opportunity to develop a stronger relationship with the Father more like the relationship that Jesus had.