

Reflection Thursday 3rd Week Lent 2023

If we lost the use of any of our senses, we would be very hard pressed. To be made dumb is would be very difficult for many of us. Being dumb from birth would be even harder. However, the healing of the dumb man raises the question of how much we keep silent about the injustices we see around us and do nothing to rectify them. Gary Lineker spoke up about the injustices levelled against Refugees and Asylum Seekers and was silenced. However, the support he received from his fellow workers has deservedly help challenge this decision. We may not be popular in the sense of well-known and our voice may be small but in speaking out about any form of injustice can often help and encourage others to do the same.

Pope Francis: The clergy should remember they began their lives as lay people. The Church is not an elite of priests, consecrated people or bishops. All of us make up the faithful and Holy People of God. Clericalism is a mistaken way of living the ecclesiology proposed by the Second Vatican Council. Clericalism is one of the greatest distortions affecting the Church. In fact, the visibility and the sacramentality of the Church belong to all the people of God, not just to an illuminated and elected few. It is therefore important for clergy to encourage and support the efforts of the lay faithful who work in the public sphere. It is not the job of the pastor to tell the lay people what they must do and say in those situations. The laity know more and better than us. It's illogical and even impossible for us as pastors to believe that we have the monopoly on solutions for the numerous challenges thrown up by contemporary life. The lay faithful are the protagonists of the Church and the world. The clergy are called to serve them, not to make use of them.