

## Reflection Friday Week 12 – 2023

All covenants are built on trust and loyalty and are established for mutual benefit. In a strong covenant, even if one of the parties fails, there is the possibility of the covenant being renewed. Hopefully in these cases, the renewed covenant becomes even stronger.

**Pope Francis:** *At the heart of the new covenant, that Jesus made with us, is our realization that, in Christ, we are embraced by God's mercy and compassion, and that our lives must bear witness to his love for all our brothers and sisters.*

*Established in the Old Testament and re-established by Christ in the fullness of time, the Church is a new people, founded on a new covenant...sealed with the blood of Jesus.*

*This newness brought by Jesus "does not set aside what went before, but brings it to completion. The importance of the figure of John the Baptist in scripture is also "very significant" since it prepares the people to receive the Lord.*

*Saint John the Baptist is a bridge between the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament and their fulfilment in the New. He points to Jesus and calls us to follow him in repentance and conversion. On a small hill, Jesus delivered a new teaching to his disciples, which begins with the beatitudes. The new law which Jesus gives in the Sermon on the Mount perfects the law given to Moses on Mount Sinai.*

*Jesus tells us that our Christian life will be judged on how we treat him in the least of our brethren. In addition to the new law, the Lord invites us to recognize it in the poor, in those who suffer, in those in need. We will be judged on this at the end of our lives. The new covenant consists precisely in recognizing that, thanks to Christ, mercy and the compassion of God surround us.*