

Reflection Friday Week 15 - 2023

In the gospels the Scribes and Pharisees have a bad name, yet not all of them were like that: Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea etc. There are always people who find something wrong in anything that is done, however good and however helpful it has been. Nothing is perfect, we can always improve but this is no reason to live a life of doom and gloom and negativity. There are many good people in the world, even though the media tries to teach otherwise. In religion, abiding by the rules, self-discipline, not doing things your own way are important elements in creating harmony. There will always be a challenge over keeping the rules and being fussy about the rules when something more important is at stake. The purpose of the rules is to help bring us closer to God, both individually and as a community, as a family. We live the rules out of love, out of a desire to live in the way Gods wants of us to live for our own well-being.

Pope Francis Laetitia Amorim: *Our faith is challenged to discern how wine can come from water and how wheat can grow amongst weeds. Now, after Vatican II, our current reality must not mean any less trust in the Spirit or less generosity. Blessed John XXIII in 1962 said: "At times we have to listen, much to our regret, to the voices of people who, though burning with zeal, lack a sense of discretion and measure. In this modern age they can see nothing but prevarication and ruin... We disagree with those prophets of doom who are always forecasting disaster, as though the end of the world were at hand. In our times, divine Providence is leading us to a new order of human relations which, by human effort and even beyond all expectations, are directed to the fulfilment of God's superior and inscrutable designs, in which everything, even human setbacks, leads to the greater good of the Church".[65]*