

Reflection Friday Week 29 – 2023

Many stories both fact and fiction involve the battle between good and evil that St Paul writes about. We experience that same battle within ourselves. The subtlety of evil is that it hides behind lethargy, inaction, busyness, lame excuses rather than reveal itself. The Church recognises that it has failed and even supported evil over good. The horrendous period of abuse, especially of minors, is evidence of this. In 1988 The United Church of Canada apologised for what it did to the native peoples of Canada. In 1990 The Catholic Church in Poland admitted its failings during the Holocaust years to the Jewish community in that country. Since then, many similar apologies have been made in other countries. Fortunately, the Laity did their best to help, showing that good can overcome evil. The current Roman Synod has recognised this inherent goodness and activity of the laity to help and heal these situations with a hope that will help lead the Church into a better future. They will help the Church learn from and grow stronger in healing the errors and evils of the past. In the terrible wars in Ukraine and Palestine, the laity are helping those in need, the injured and homeless and even sacrificing their lives to help others.

- *“Let us pray with one heart and one soul – Lord come to our aid, grant us peace, teach us peace, guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: Never again war.’ Lord Hear Us. ”Pope Francis + Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem*
- *"Violence is never a solution. Retribution is never a contribution to peace. Please pray today for that peace. Pray for all who have lost their lives and for the immediate release of those taken hostage. Pray especially for the small but active Catholic community in Gaza City who at this moment will be reaching out courageously to their neighbours, trying to offer shelter and support. Today please pray the great prayer of the Rosary that this conflict, in the homeland of Mary herself, will quickly come to an end." Cardinal Vincent Nichols*