

Reflection Saturday Week 27b – 2023

Isn't it wonderful how quickly Jesus picks up on something and develops a poignant teaching from it. A compliment paid to his mother is used to tell us that, like her, we need to be at one with the Word of God and it will guide us as it guided her to make good decisions. Mary's decision to accept to become the mother of Jesus, the mother of God, is one of the best examples of this. I have just attended a meeting of Religious many of whom are facing the very difficult decision, as their number diminish, of closure and fulfilment. In several cases the elderly religious remaining are 80+. The ability to be active becomes harder and harder and the only ministry they can do well is the ministry of prayer, and very important this is too when we think of our contemplative orders and congregations praying for us and the Church.

For several decades the Assumptionists have stressed the importance of prayer, of being rather than doing, and of presence; the belief is that prayer will lead to action. The primary source of our prayer is scripture, the Word of God.

There is a particular need at present for us to pray for the Synod on the Synodality of the Church taking place in Rome, a summary document is at present in the process of being created. It will be a source for reflection. Whatever we have to offer in response will be used for the second part of the synod that will take place in October 2034. Let us pray for the synod:

- Come, You who ever makes all things new!
- Come, Holy Spirit, soul of the Church: gather into unity and make fruitful the toil, the hope, and the desire of each one involved in the Synod Assembly.
- Come, gentle Breath of God, who in Jesus revives the dwindling flame, and restore vigour to the bruised reed.
- Come, Creator Spirit, who restores parched bones, gathers the lost, and brings into dialogue languages that do not recognize each other. Amen.