

## Reflection Saturday Week 29 St Simon & St Jude 2023

**St Simon**, is eleventh in the list of the twelve Apostles. He is known as Simon the Zealot, but nothing else is known about him. His other name of "Simon Cananaeus" simply adapts another Hebrew word for "zeal" and has nothing to do with the town of Cana.

**St Jude**, also called Thaddaeus, is the apostle who at the Last Supper asked the Lord why he showed himself only to the disciples and not to the world. For many centuries he was scarcely venerated because people confused him with Judas Iscariot. He is the patron saint of lost and desperate causes.

Prayer is not always the answer but the question. We question God about our wishes and intentions not necessarily for ourselves, more often for others and other situations like the conflict on Gaza. We seek answers and are afraid the answer may not be the one we want. Jesus entered into prayer and questioned God about his disciples but seemed to have already chosen the ones he wanted. They certainly turned out to be good choices, including Simon and Jude. God has chosen us as his followers let us pray our question: to be ever more faithful, courageous and wise disciples of Christ and bring glory to his name.

### **A prayer for Peace:**

Through your intercession, St. Jude, keep us open to the calming presence of God. Help us always to forgive others. We pray for peace among nations, especially in Gaza. Help us contribute to building of peace where we live and with those we meet . . . whether known or not. May God grant peace to our families. May God also grant us peace and strength to continue to work to follow Jesus' teachings. Thank you, St. Jude, for being a source of deep hope and for bringing our petitions to God. Amen.

**A parishioner compliments the minister after a sermon, saying, "Reverend, your words today were akin to the peace and love of God."**

"Thank you," responds the minister, "Why do you say that?"

The parishioner explains, "Because the peace of God passes all understanding, and the love of God endures forever."