

### Reflection Thursday Week 28 – 2023

Joseph Donders says this about Jesus in the Gospel: Jesus told the lawyers that they with their laws did not look *inside* themselves and that their laws prevented others from doing so as well. Of course we need laws. Yet it is from the voice of the Holy Spirit *within us*, speaking through a well-informed conscience that we know how best to act. To kill someone is against the law. However, it isn't wrong because it is against a rule or a law that comes from *outside* ourselves, an external law, but because it is against the voice of God present within us. It is against our conscience. If legislators do not make the connection, they risk receiving the same condemnation Jesus gave to the lawyers in his time.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "*Sin is an offence against reason, truth and right conscience* (#1849) The Catechism also quotes Cardinal Newman on conscience. "*Conscience is the aboriginal Vicar of Christ*" (#1778). Christ is the one whom we meet when enter into ourselves!

It is because of antagonists like those in the gospel that, not prophets and apostles but homes and families are being devastated through terrorism, gang violence, political and military actions – sadly, many seeking to flee such violence often meet with rejection or persecution. We still haven't learned to live with our arms open. Let us remember that Mother Teresa encouraged us to remember that "*we belong to each other.*"

In praying for Peace today we believe in and work for a world in which light prevails. A world in which God is God for all. God's compassion has to be our compassion. God's grace has to be our grace. God's peace has to be our peace. Everyone, everywhere, today and every day. Amen.