

Reflection Wednesday Week 27b St John XXIII 2023

Although not everyone will agree, Pope John XXIII did a great service for the Church which inspired all the Popes who followed him. His inspiration has helped promote the renewal of the Church for the good of the whole Catholic Community and for the world. Not least, but primary among these popes is our current Pope Francis.

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born in the village of Sotto il Monte, near Bergamo, in 1881. Aged 11 he entered the seminary at Bergamo and later pursued his studies at the Pontifical Seminary in Rome. He was ordained priest in 1904. He was secretary to the Bishop of Bergamo but from 1921 onwards he served the Holy See directly in various posts, both in Rome and in Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece, culminating as Apostolic Nuncio to France from 1944 until 1953, when he was created cardinal and made the Patriarch of Venice. He was elected Pope in 1958. He convoked the Roman Synod, instituted the revision of Canon Law, and called the Second Vatican Council, which opened on 11th October 1962. He died while the Council was still in session, on the evening of 3rd June 1963.

Be inspired by his wisdom:

- *People are like wine - some turn to vinegar, but the best improve with age.*
- *The true and solid peace of nations consists not in equality of arms, but in mutual trust alone.*
- *In this world of ours, every believer must be a spark of light, a centre of love, a vivifying ferment for the mass; and it will be that all the more as, in the depths of his being, he lives in communion with God.*
- *Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.*