

### Reflection Friday Week 30 St Martin de Porres 2023

**Saint Martin de Porres (1579 - 1639)** was born in Lima in Peru, the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a black ex-slave. His mother gave him a Christian education and he became a pharmacist and a nurse. Despite his father's opposition he entered the Dominican Order as a lay brother in 1603 and spent his life working for the sick and the poor. Many people of all ranks would come to him for advice. He had a great devotion to the Holy Eucharist. He has been named as a patron saint of those of mixed race.

Maybe, if the pharisees spent more time really listening to Jesus, they would have spent less time with their failed schemes and learnt something helpful. The only people to end up with egg on their faces were the Pharisees. Jesus was always more than one step ahead. He was always concerned about people and wanted to help those who were unable to be helped in any other way. He was probably grateful to the Pharisees for this opportunity to heal a man with dropsy.

We need to ask ourselves how often we have failed to go to the help of someone because we were afraid of what people might say or how they might judge us? They may even throw Church 'rules' and 'commandments' at us as criticism. Yet, Jesus makes it very clear that no one who acts out of genuine love for others can go far wrong! That no truly loving act can ever be sinful.