

## Reflection Saturday Week 34 – 2023

Today is the final day of the current liturgical calendar. Evening prayer, also known as Vespers, will introduce us to the Advent season. Once again, we are warned of the final end of everything and encouraged to be attentive.

Do you know how many times during the Eucharist the celebrant says, *"The Lord be with you!"*? This is a call to pay attention to what follows; a call first made at the beginning of Mass. These words also carry the promise of hope, hope for today, hope for the future. At present the world is in dire need of hope and the call to prayer is not just to pray for ourselves and our communities but also for the troubles through which the world struggles. Despite all its troubles, the world is full of hope which often lies hidden but wherever we encounter God we encounter Hope. Hope exists in the people and events of everyday and in our own lives; creation itself speaks to us of the presence of God and wherever we encounter God we come face to face with hope. No wonder we are called on to pray earnestly, to be touched by God's sacred presence throughout the day. *The Lord be with you! The Lord be with you!*

- ***My friend just told me, "I hope you die in a deep hole filled with water".***
- *I know he means well!!!!*
- ***"Hope to see you soon" isn't always what you want to hear from your doctor!!!***
- ***I hope I never get addicted to skiing.. ... but it's a slippery slope!!!!***