

### Reflection Wednesday Week 32 – 2023

We live in an age where language is scrutinised more and more. There seems to be a hidden group called the discrimination police. Suella Braverman lost her job because of them. One of the good consequences of this careful scrutiny of language is that it challenges our understanding and the logic behind what we say and the words we use. The author of Wisdom was well aware of this, thousands of years ago. The question Wisdom poses today focuses on *power and authority* both of which are the subject of great debate and different understandings. Raised to a higher position of government, people seem to believe that they own power and authority because of their position. Being told that all power and authority come from God, as Jesus told Pilate at his trial, those given the responsibility of governing should realise that power and authority is only to be used to help, guide, and promote the people they serve for the common good. They are not to be used for themselves.

Pope Francis says: *“Real authority is born from good example, in order to help others practice what is right and proper, supporting them in the trials that they encounter on the path of good. However, if it is exercised badly, it becomes oppressive, it does not allow people to grow and it creates a climate of mistrust and hostility and even breeds corruption. Therefore, if we have received certain qualities or authority from God, then we must put these at the service of others, rather than trying to take advantage of them for our own interests and personal satisfaction.”*

At an evening with friends, I had several drinks of Scotch followed by some rather nice red wine. Feeling jolly, I still had the sense to know that I may have been slightly over the limit. That's when I did something that I've never done before, I took a taxi home. Sure enough, on the way home, there was a police road block, but since it was a taxi, they waved it past. I arrived home safely without incident.

This was a real surprise as I had never driven a taxi before, I don't know where I got it, and now that it's in my garage I'm not sure what to do with it!!