

### Reflection Wednesday Week 34 – 2023

When Luke wrote his gospel, the fall of Jerusalem had happened in 70 AD. All that he wrote about had taken place. The easiest people to blame for the catastrophe was the religious group newly formed called Christians. And they were.

That the world is in continuing crisis is testified by the current wars in Gaza and Ukraine along with several other places. Creation is gradually being forced into a submission of inevitable decline. What does Jesus say to all this? He tells us to **Persevere** in doing good. Live the Gospel helping those in need in whatever way possible and **Trust** me. Jesus calls for action not a wallowing in decline, helping people not giving up. Despite the fact that Jesus knew his journey would take him to the cross, he spent most of the time he had helping people, affirming them, speaking of the good news, especially concerning the deep love of God for them. Words that offered reassurance and were uplifting; words that spoke of dignity, honour and respect.

Pope Francis: *“Perseverance is the call in the world of God’s love, because God’s love is faithful, it never changes. Jesus wants us to focus on building “on his word, on love, on goodness.” Perseverance builds goodness every day. To persevere is to remain constant in goodness, especially when the reality around us urges us to do otherwise.*

Dostoevsky, wrote: *“Have no fear of men’s sin. Love a man even in his sin, for that is the semblance of Divine Love and is the highest love on earth.” If we persevere, Jesus tells us we have nothing to fear, even in the sad and ugly events of life, not even in the evil we see around us, because we remain grounded in the good, grounded in God.*

**A young priest** was sitting in a restaurant opened a letter he'd just received from his mom. As he opened it a twenty-pound note fell out. He thought to himself, Thanks, Mom, I really needed that right now.

As he finished his meal, he noticed a beggar outside. Thinking that the poor man could probably use the twenty pounds more than he, he crossed out the names on the envelope and wrote across the top in large letters, **PERSEVERE!**

Rather than attract attention, he put the envelope under his arm and dropped it as he walked past the man. The man picked it up and read the message and smiled.

The next day, as the priest enjoyed his meal, the same man tapped him on the shoulder and handed him a big wad of money. Surprised, the young priest asked him what that was for. The man replied, *“This is your half of the winnings. Persevere came in first in the fourth race at the track yesterday and paid thirty to one!!*