

Reflection Saturday Week 1 – 2024

Events in Scripture are often dramatic, clarifying the understanding of a people's relationship with God in detail. The choice of Saul as king came after a struggle between the prophet Samuel and God. Once chosen, however, God gave Saul his full support. Like Saul and like Samuel we, too, are called and chosen in baptism. Also, like Saul, we are anointed with oil and become brothers or sisters of Jesus. In this way we share in his royal status, his calling to be a prophet and in his priesthood. Our calling, however, seems much less dramatic within a family and local community celebration. Do we live with royal dignity? Stand up for Justice? Serve others and family in the same way as Jesus served?

Something for us to ponder!!

Jesus then asks us to be a welcoming community. That in our eucharist and in our Christian family all are welcome without distinction, even the most evil among us - a barrier for some but not for Jesus.

The gospel reminds us that both the Jewish and Islamic faiths share this same belief in giving hospitality to the stranger. Let us pray that this belief will resurface in the conflict in Gaza so that avenues for peace can be opened.

O God of peace, you have established Jerusalem as the Lord's House and a place of peace, and you have called on all who live there to love you and prosper. Instil in her inhabitants - Jews, Christians and Muslims - a hunger for justice and dignity and a resolve to end the distrust that culminates in violence. Grant them the wisdom and patience to build a city where Israeli and Palestinian reside in safety, free from oppression and committed to the good of all. In this endeavour, make every one of us agents of your peace, O God. Forgive us our indifference and stamp out the prejudices that lead to hatred. Fill us with the reconciling spirit of your presence. So may we join people of good will - in the Middle East and throughout the world - who raise before Jerusalem's gates their insistent Shalom and Salaam: "Peace be within your walls. Peace be within you." Harry and Judith Hoehler