

## Reflection Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Week 2024

In the Gospel, Jesus says, '*Do not throw your pearls before swine*'. What a graphic and powerful image! We might well understand this to mean that we should not waste good things on people who won't appreciate them. This does not mean that we have to hold back from witnessing to the Gospel and sharing the Good News with people who might be sceptical. Jesus himself ate with and taught sinners, prostitutes and tax collectors. We are invited to share the Gospel, but, when it becomes apparent that it is not welcome, we should in all conscience move on. This is a judgement call we will each have to make i.e. when to move on in a particular situation which may not be easy.

Pearls have always been considered valuable. They are symbols of great worth, beauty, and rarity. In the gospel "pearls" can be seen to represent the precious truths and gifts of our faith, including the teachings of Jesus and the sacraments. Jesus indicates the need for discernment in how and where we share these gifts.

Pigs, in Jesus' time, were considered unclean animals, incapable of appreciating the value of pearls. They would not recognise the worth of any pearls thrown before them; indeed, they might even trample them underfoot and turn aggressively on the one who cast them. However, offering gentle witness, whether by word or deed, maybe something that will touch those who are listening.

Even the tiniest little pearl has potential to shine.

**A woman said to her husband: "I just dreamt that you gave me a necklace of pearls. What do you think it means?"**

The man smiled and said: "*You'll know tonight.*"

That evening, the man came home with a small package which he gave to his wife. She embraced him, and then slowly unwrapped the package. It contained a book entitled, ***The Meaning of Dreams.***