



GOING FORWARD TOGETHER ...

Fifth Sunday of Lent 2022

FROM THE READINGS

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before.

See, I am doing a new deed,

Even now it comes to light; can you not see it?

Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. *Isaiah 43:18-19*

Those who are sowing in tears

will sing when they reap. *Psalms 125/126:5*

All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 3:13-14*

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery ... looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their questions, he straightened up and said, 'Let the one among you who is guiltless be the first to throw a stone at her.'

As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus. 'Go away, and do not sin any more.' *John 8:3-11*

FROM FELLOW TRAVELLERS

By the grace you grant me

of silence without loneliness,

give me the right to plead,

to clamour

for my brothers and sisters

imprisoned in

a loneliness without silence!

It is worth any sacrifice,

however great or costly,

to see eyes that were listless

light up again,
to see someone smile
who seemed to have forgotten
how to smile;
to see trust reborn in someone
who no longer believed
in anything or
anyone.

Dom Helder Camara quoted in *Heroes of Faith*, 120

What unites us,
is much greater than what divides us.

Pope John XXIII, Quoted by Pope John Paul II: Address 'To the Catholic Bishops of the Russian Federation', 2001

Newman was convinced,
as am I, that in embracing what often appear at first sight to be contradictory
truths and trusting in the kindly light to lead us, we will eventually come to see
the greater truth that lies beyond us.

Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream*, 56

There is no contradiction
between being solidly rooted in the truth and at the same time being open to
a greater understanding. The Spirit continues to guide us in our translating the
Good News into different contexts ... The Spirit shows us new things through
what the Church calls "signs of the times".

Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream*, 57

What is the grace on offer here,
if we can only embrace it; and what are the obstacles and temptations?
What humanises and dehumanises? Where is the good news hidden ... ?

Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream*, 60

To recover the dignity of the people
we need to go to the margins of our societies to meet all those who live there.
Hidden there are ways of looking at the world that can give us all a fresh start.

Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream*, 119

FOR THINKING AND PRAYING

- What words or phrases stand out for you in these readings and insights of 'fellow travellers'?
- What insights might you take with you on your own journey?

PRAYER

**Dearest God,
Teach me to be generous,
Teach me to serve you as you deserve –
To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek rest,
To labour and not ask for reward –
Except to know that I am doing your will.**

St Ignatius of Loyola, 'With God's Help' quoted in Carol Graser, *Pray to Love – Love to Pray*, 27



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST 2022 – JOURNEYING TOWARDS THE SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE 5TH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA AND THE 16TH ORDINARY SYNOD OF BISHOPS ON 'SYNODALITY' IN THE THIRD YEAR OF A PANDEMIC. **Prepared by:** Adult Faith Education Sandhurst, PO Box 201, Bendigo, 3552. Email: adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au. **Acknowledgements:** Bruce D. Prewer, *Australian Prayers* 4th Edn., Kingston Springs, TN, USA: Westview, 2002; Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream: The Path To A Better Future*, Sydney Australia: Simon & Schuster, 2020; Roland Ashby Ed., *Heroes of the Faith*, Mulgrave Vic: Garratt Publishing, 2015; Pope John XXIII, Quoted by Pope John Paul II: Address 'To the Catholic Bishops of the Russian Federation', 2001; Carol Graser, *Pray to Love – Love to Pray*, Milwaukee, WI: Hi-Time Publishing Corporation, 1996.