

## 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### **SUNDAY REFLECTION:**

‘Love’ is a word used almost frequently in everyday life. What does it really mean? We may be functioning as humanitarian social workers, but does that make our life Christian? Do our good works proclaim our attitude towards God?

Six hundred and thirteen precepts of Jewish laws are summed up in the Gospels in one commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.” Our love for others must flow from the divine fountain, God’s love. We are enabled to love others because, in the first instance, God has loved us. Love gives meaning to our life as Christians.

*The Yiddish writer, Isaac Loeb Peretz, tells the following story: A Rabbi used to disappear from the synagogue for a few hours on every day of atonement. One of his followers suspecting that he was secretly meeting the Almighty, followed him. He watched the Rabbi putting on coarse peasant clothes and taking care of a sick woman in a cottage, cleaning up her room and preparing food for her. When the follower returned to the synagogue he was asked by the others: “Did the Rabbi ascend to heaven? He replied, “It was much higher!” He thus laid emphasis on the Rabbi’s joyful service, on his reaching God through love for men.*

According to Jesus, there is actually only one commandment which contains all the others, namely, love; once our life is governed by love of God and of one another all other laws become unnecessary. It is only through love of our neighbour we reach God; only in loving others we love God. When Jesus said ‘love your neighbour’ he meant that we should view things more with the heart than with the head. It is, of course, easy to love in good and favourable circumstances. But Christian love demands courage and sacrifice, forgiveness, acceptance, even loving those who hate us.

**“Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver.”**

Fr. Thomas