

## Thought for the day - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022

by Revd John Ohen

### Humility.

Thank God for the COP27 Conference going on in Egypt, where most of the world leaders are gathered to talk about Climate Change or better still Climate justice. There are many demonstrations about Climate injustice. The UN secretary general was reminding the world leaders that we are walking into danger if we do not act now before it is too late. Yet some of the world leaders and people are dismissing it as “scare – mongering”. Is there any humility here? When some world- leaders are very dismissive of UN Sec- General’s advice?

The greatest sin is pride, and the greatest virtue is humility. Christians are encouraged to be humble in our dealings. Jesus keen observer of human nature noticed how guests at a dinner party were eager to take the seat of honour. No one likes a show-off, but there can be no denying that this desire for recognition and affirmation runs deep in our veins. Poor nations are “paying twice” for climate breakdown, and we all should start to do something now. Failure to tackle the crisis will create about one billion refugees by 2050, summit was warned.

The famous C. S. Lewis said “As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people, and if you are looking down you cannot see something that is above.’ The truly humble aren’t looking down on others but looking up to God. Pride is identified as the root of all sin, just as humility is the root of all virtue. Jesus’ teaching is rooted in a radical, life – changing and deeply challenging humility. G. K. Chesterton said that humility hasn’t been tried and found wanting, it just hasn’t been tried. Walking humbly with God and our neighbour isn’t easy path. However, Jesus is saying “If you profess to be Christians and follow, then this must be your constant and daily prayer. (Luke 17. 10 NIV).

There are few ways to practice humility, according to (Mother Teresa of Calcutta), to speak as little as possible of oneself. To mind one’s own business. To accept contradictions and correction cheerfully. To be kind even under provocation and to choose always the hardest.

**Bible passage.** [Luke 14. 7 – 10.](#)

**Prayer.** Lord teach me to be a cheerful giver, generous and lavish to a fault, and to give but not to count the cost and share without expecting a reward. Amen.