

## **Thought for the day – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**by Revd John Ohen**

### **Humility.**

The famous theologian C.S. Lewis once said that “As long as you are proud, you cannot know God. A proud person is always looking down on things and people, and as you are looking down you cannot see what is above.” That is the point. The truly humble aren't looking down on others but looking up to God. They are heavenly minded but strive to be of earthly use because ultimately humility is a practical virtue that impacts upon our daily lives.

Pride is seen as one of the greatest sin and humility is the greatest virtue. Jesus keen observer of human nature noticed how the guests at a dinner party were keen to grab the high seats or places of honour. No one likes a show off, but this desire runs deep in many people.

Jesus Counsel was for us to assume the lower place, even if we were entitled to it. Jesus' punch line is that “for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all those who humble themselves will be exalted’ (Luke 14 .11). Humility is one virtue that sounds like a great idea until we actually have to be humbled. Humility doesn't mean having negative self-image or thinking less of ourselves. To me humility is loving God and serving our neighbour.

St Mother Teresa of Calcutta said that “there are few ways to practice humility - To speak as little as possible of oneself. To mind one's one business. To accept correction and contradictions cheerfully. To pass over the mistakes of others. To be kind and gentle even under provocation. “

Bible passage. Luke 14 1. 7 – 11.

Prayer. God, we thank you for your kindness, mercy, and compassion, which you have so lavishly and generously poured out upon us. Amen.