

## **Bulletin Reflection 2021.10.03. Year B1. Week 27. Ordinary Time.**

“From the beginning of creation God...”

Is Christ’s teaching on gender and marriage still valid after two thousand years? A few simple questions may reveal the answer: Is God’s word eternal or subject to change? Has the essence of humanity altered, meaning, are we equally as human as those who listened to Jesus in 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD?

When the Pharisees probed the Lord about the lawfulness of divorce, he asked what Moses had taught them. Apparently, Moses’ permission for a writ of dismissal was being interpreted by them as a sign of approval. But according to St. Augustine, because such a bill could only be written by the scribes, this was in fact not an endorsement of divorce but a final attempt to save the marriage by their wise counsel. In other words, Moses introduced the policy “because [they] were so unteachable” but the principle of marital union did not change. So to clarify, the Incarnate Word once-for-all reaffirmed what his heavenly Father intended from the beginning – that God made male and female, that the two would become one body in marriage, and what God has united, man must not divide.

Although the Western culture has been founded on Christian principles, with increasing secularisation and the rise of social atheism, civil laws are rather hastily departing from its religious roots. Devoid of a supernatural perspective, these man-made laws are not always good and just, as they tend to favour materialistic and utilitarian principles over eternal and life-giving ones. So in order to discern the righteousness of these laws, we ought to ask Jesus and see how he might respond. Would he be likely to settle for an imperfect compromise simply because ‘we are so unteachable’ or because someone greater than Christ could come and correct it? Or given how he has already clarified and perfected these laws (C.f. Mt 5:17: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.”) would he not take us back to God’s initial design? “From the beginning of creation God...”