***Monday 13th July 2020 Collective Worship – St Thomas Aquinas***

*If you can, it might help to set aside a space for prayer, light a candle to focus.*

**Collective Worship**

1. Start with the Sign of the Cross

2.Take time to read today’s Gospel: **Matthew 10:34-11:1**

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth: it is not peace I have come to bring, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man’s enemies will be those of his own household.

‘Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

‘Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

‘Anyone who welcomes a prophet will have a prophet’s reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man will have a holy man’s reward.

‘If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.’

When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples he moved on from there to teach and preach in their towns.

1. **Short Reflection**

If Jesus sometimes uses shocking words, it is to jolt us into realising what he is about. He does not endorse armed conflict, but he warns that we have to struggle to put him first, before family ties. Divisions will occur according as people are forced to decide for him or against him. I pray that he gives me the courage I need to stand with him despite losing things I hold dear.

While Jesus warns us about the cost of discipleship, he also promises that even the small efforts we make in following him will have their reward. He knows my weakness, so he asks me to take baby steps – even to give a cup of water to someone.

People have showed more kindness during lockdown. What acts of kindness have you done, seen or watched on the news?

1. **Prayer:**

Lord, thank you for the riches of your kindness to me. Help me to always be on the lookout for opportunities to show kindness to those in need.

1. **Hail Mary**  
   *Hail Mary Full of Grace the Lord is with thee*

*Blessed art though amongst women*

*And Blessed is the fruit of Thy womb Jesus*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God*

*Pray for us sinners now*

*And at the hour of our death. Amen*

1. **School Prayer**

*Christ, you are the centre of our school community*

*Help us to live together in peace*

*Help us to love one another as you have loved us*

*Help us to learn your ways so that the truth will set us free.*

*Amen*

1. St Thomas Aquinas, Pray for us
2. Finish with the Sign of the Cross

# *Suggested song for the day:*