

### **CHURCH- some insights!**

Experience has shown me to better appreciate any organization that includes the Catholic Church it is of value to liken it to some contrasting entities.

The Catholic Church like many Protestant churches operates from a local, a diocesan, a national and at an international level. And like any big political party or a long serving royal family dynasty there are some things that go well and other things that definitely do not go well! We only need to read and hear our various media outlets to be assured of this reality.

Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430) in one of his many profound works once described the Church as like a *mini Noah's ark*. It is bouncing around so often on smooth and rough waters beyond its control. And the people on board come in many varieties with all types of issues, to say the least!

C S Lewis (1898-1963) once wrote that the founder of the Church; *"suddenly appeared in a quiet backwater of the Roman Empire as if he was behind enemy lines."* There was absolutely nothing grand or significant about his entry into this world or how he began his 3-year public ministry.

A final thought from the legendary American Christian evangelist Billy Graham (1918-2018) this is directed towards anyone who has an unrealistic expectation of any church; *"If you find a perfect church please join it and then remember that it won't be perfect anymore!"* Fr Martin R Maunsell