

## **DECLARE OR NOT TO DECLARE!**

The question of declaring something at an international airport is rarely asked these days as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis!

But the question of *declaring* what we have done and not done throughout our life is another issue. It is amazing how many people have justified themselves to me over the years that they're good people because; *they don't hurt anyone*. But when they are gently probed as to what they have actually done to anyone to make a real difference to them they usually treat the question as irrelevant.

What deeply challenges and even disturbs me about *not hurting anyone* is the message that comes from the parable of *The Good Samaritan* by Jesus of Nazareth the son of God. In this now legendary story, he makes the point that the priest and the Levite in the story did not hurt the injured man on the side of the road they simply did nothing to help. The son of God makes it very clear to all that this reaction is simply not good enough! For us now we need to be constantly aware of the needs of people around us and then respond to *where* they need help it may be physically, materially or emotionally.

At the end of our life God may well ask of us; "What *have you to declare with the knowledge, time* and opportunities you have been given?" We have all been warned! *Fr Martin R Maunsell*