

AUTHORITY & GREATNESS!

I recall many years a great rugby league coach (Jack Gibson) says about one of his prized players; *“He is so special because he is the one player who other players in the team most like to play with as he has the ability and attitude to consistently brings out the best in others.”* I thought at the time what a wonderful thing to be remembered by!

The great Christian writer G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936) wrote; *“that true greatness in life is simply the ability to enable people to feel great about themselves.”* The English word *great* evolved from the Latin word *augere* meaning to make things grow.

The constant and profound difference in the leadership of Jesus of Nazareth compared to the many other religious leaders of his time is how he enabled the people he led to feel about themselves . Jesus talked with people and not down to them by way of sharing great life stories, he called the people who he led *friends*. Constantly he gently inspired people to move from one stage of life to a better stage such as the infamous tax collector *Zacchaeus*. When he corrected people, he did so with integrity combined with a genuine concern for their wellbeing.

Saint Mark summed up this reality well by these words; *“that his teaching unlike that of the scribes made a deep impression on people as he taught with true authority.”* (Mark Chapter 1, verse 21) *Fr Martin R Maunsell*