

FRIENDSHIP & SOLIDARITY!

John Donne (1572-1631) is remembered as one of the great English poets, he was an Anglican minister and was the dean of the magnificent Cathedral of Saint Paul in London.

One of Donne's most memorable quotes was; *"No man is an island, every man is part of the world continent. If a clod of land is washed away by the sea it would make England less than it should be. Any person's misfortune diminishes me as we are all connected to the one humanity."*

People would be very remiss to ever think that over time they will have a neutral influence with others, in time it will either be positive or negative. If it's either of these extremes it will be determined by the quality of relationships that someone has taken the time to establish with others. I well remember being moved in hearing someone in giving a funeral obituary say of the deceased; *"she made everyone feel as if they were covered in sunshine."*

Solidarity is a vital tool for reducing inequality in our world as it ideally leads to the sustainable development for all people. Some international organizations that play a constant vital role here include *Caritas International, Amnesty International* and *The World Health Organization*. Jesus of Nazareth makes the poignant point about solidarity and friendship in these words. *"That it's how you treat the least of my brothers and sisters is how you treat me."* (Matthew Chapter 25 verse 40) *Fr Martin R Maunsell*