

Reflection - Monday in Holy Week, 2020

He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

Colossians 1.18-23



I am sure that in the last few weeks you will all have come to recognise the importance of being connected. Having been deprived of 'physical' proximity to each other it has made us all much more aware of our need for closeness and contact. Most of us have become more conscious of those around us, not just because of the level of threat we face, but also out of sympathy and compassion for our neighbours and their needs. Alongside the panic and greed there have been many

wonderful examples of people reaching out to one another. In our neighbourhood group people have been posting messages to each other asking if any shopping or supplies might be needed and others simply stating their need in order for others to respond if they could.

This consciousness of our connection to others is fundamental to our experience of being human. No man/woman is an island.

The passage from Colossians today expresses that connection with reference to the church. Christ is the Head. We are all members of his body. We celebrate this week by week under normal circumstances when we come to church on Sunday. In these unprecedented times we are having to find other ways to realise our connection.

There is something quite new and almost organic that we are discovering as we explore with each other what that belonging really means. It is our prayer that perhaps the human race as a whole might be drawn into a deeper reflection and recognition that we belong to one another. "Who is my neighbour?" the young man asked Jesus in the Gospel story. It is clear from Jesus' response to that question that he expects us all to take responsibility for each other in a sacrificial way as he recounts the story of the Good Samaritan.

And this can happen, it is proclaimed, through faith in Christ who has laid himself down as a bridge by which we may find love, connection, healing and forgiveness in our relationships with one another.

This connection between ourselves and with Jesus is beautifully conceived in the words of the song by Simon and Garfunkel, Bridge over Troubled Water.

*When you're weary, feeling small
When tears are in your eyes, I'll dry them all I'm
on your side, oh, when times get rough
And friends just can't be found
Like a bridge over troubled water I
will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water I
will lay me down
When you're down and out
When you're on the street
When evening falls so hard I
will comfort you
I'll take your part, oh, when darkness comes
And pain is all around
Like a bridge over troubled water I
will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water I
will lay me down
Sail on silver girl
Sail on by
Your time has come to shine
All your dreams are on their way
See how they shine
Oh, if you need a friend
I'm sailing right behind
Like a bridge over troubled water I
will ease your mind
Like a bridge over troubled water I
will ease your mind.*

Maybe our dreams are on their way as we seek out what it means to truly be connected. As we approach Easter we are drawn to think about what this actually meant for Jesus as he lay his body down as a bridge that connects us all to the other.

The Reverend Rob Farman