

Dear friends,

I have recorded a YouTube reflection based on the readings for Sunday. If you'd like to look at it just click on this link.

https://youtu.be/KKg983nde_8

Alternatively, if you would prefer to read it just click on this link.

<https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2020/11/christ-has-no-body-but-yours.html>

Christingle in the year of Covid-19.

This year, because of the circumstances the RMC is going to provide a “takeaway” Christingle service. We are going to provide the materials to make the Christingles to the schools and they will do the rest accompanied by a “Christingle film” that I know Karen is recording with Tony and Lucinda as we speak. The quantities are immense – 451 oranges for example just for starters – but together with the Christmas book “It begins in Bethlehem” this is probably our biggest outreach project to our three church schools that we have ever attempted.

Musical Interlude!

I include this song because it is simply beautiful. Beautiful lyrics and a beautiful voice about the glory of human love and relationship. Sung by Roberta Flack. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8_fLu2yrP4

Words of Wisdom

There is an old Yiddish proverb that goes “The truly rich are those who enjoy what they have”

Deceptively simple because there is a force within human beings described by theologian Karl Rahner he called the “insufficiency of everything attainable” where we are tortured by what we cannot have. Nothing satisfies as Mick Jagger famously observed.

All life is fired by longing, what we might term the “life force” within all things, a mostly unconscious relentless pressure to reach beyond ourselves but every choice is a renunciation.

To choose to marry one person, means I cannot marry any of the millions of other potential mates. To live in England means I can't live anywhere else in the world. If I became a lawyer I can't be a Doctor. To choose one thing is always to renounce many others.

To find true peace – the riches the proverb talks about - is to finally realise that again as Karl Rahner observed “All symphonies in this life remain unfinished” and acceptance of our mortal boundaries is where we find peace.. Coming to terms with this maxim usually comes later in life so a measure of contentment tends to come (if it ever comes) in our older years. We grow into the Yiddish proverb I started with.

The prayer for Today is by Fr. Ronald Rolheiser

**Lord, open our eyes to Divinity, to acknowledge you as God.
Let us see in your greatness that which lies beyond
our own limit and self-preoccupation.
Let the glory of the heavens dwarf the worries of this earth.
Give us, your children, delight.**

Love and peace,
Martin

Please note my new email address is vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk