

Dear friends,

I have recorded a YouTube video based on the Sunday readings that deal with the relationship between Justice and Mercy including conflict resolution in the church. If you'd like to watch it just click here. [https://youtu.be/KjB\\_JpA4YtM](https://youtu.be/KjB_JpA4YtM)

Alternatively, if you'd prefer to read it you can do so on my Blog which you can access by clicking here. <https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2020/09/justice-tempered-by-mercy.html>

**Note:** I won't be available on Monday as we'll be in Birmingham for the funeral of Louise's uncle Eric for which we'll leave after the service on Sunday morning.

## Thought for the day

After three years living in Romania, my Romanian language skills were perfunctory at best. To prove to myself that I'm not a complete imbecile I have thought about setting myself the goal of learning what is billed as "the easiest language in the world to learn" – Bahasa Indonesia – which is basically Old Malay – the lingua franca of trade in the East Indies. Supposedly easy because it is non-tonal, has no genders, no tenses, no plurals and is written in the Roman alphabet!

That remains to be seen, but I remember a sermon by Rowan Williams once delivered about "speaking human". On the face of it, as we are all human, that seems like a no-brainer but as Rowan made clear (unusual for Rowan?!) it is remarkable how few people in religious circles speak it fluently.

Intuiting mood and temperament and when to say something and when to shut up - and how to phrase it when you do decide to say something are things we get completely wrong more often than we'd like to admit. Misreading the culture of a person formed by their social class, ethnicity, upbringing, education and experience (religious and otherwise) is very common but can be overcome by healthy dollops of openness, genuine curiosity, honesty and transparency.

A good start is seeing everybody as a precious child of God, seeing them as God sees them (OK – that can be a challenge sometimes) who has the time and space to flourish and grow consciously into the person God created them to be. Also you can know for certain that every person has a vast hinterland of good and bad experiences which they have learned to keep from the world at large because they have learnt that it is easier to shut up about it and who would be interested anyway?

People grow when they are affirmed – or in religious terms – when they are blessed. Too many people grow into adulthood without being blessed – to be told that they are good or very good in a non-exploitative way. A blessing, translated from the Latin “Benedicere”, means literally “to speak well of”. May you be blessed in your life by someone you know.

## The Blessing for Today

**May God give you...  
For every storm, a rainbow,  
For every tear, a smile,  
For every care, a promise,  
And a blessing in each trial.  
For every problem life sends,  
A faithful friend to share,  
For every sigh, a sweet song,  
And an answer for each prayer.**

Love and peace,  
Martin

Please note my new email address is [vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk)