

Being Enough

Reflection for Tuesday 28th July 2020

Today's reading for Morning Prayer is Luke 22.31-38. I was reading it to think about what to write in this reflection and towards the end, Jesus says: "It is enough". Now there are many theories about what is going on in this narrative, but it was not my interpretation that actually Jesus is once again, somewhat exasperated at the disciples' taking his words literally and getting the wrong end of the stick (or sword, as it were) that I felt drawn to write about but rather it took me in another direction entirely...

"Enough is as good as a feast." My Mum would say this often when we were children. Number eight of eleven siblings all born during war-time or in post-war Britain, my Mum heard that often too from her mum.

There were many reasons she would say that – to teach us gratitude for what we have, not to hanker for what we think we should have, to be in the moment with what we have and be "glass half full people", to not be greedy in life, and probably the most important - to make that mince and baked dumplings dinner go just that little but further...!

My Dad's contribution to what I now understand to be quite a deeply theological discussion about being enough, was to tell his fairy joke: "I am a fairy, my name is Nuff. Fairy Nuff." It would send us kids into fits of giggles at the dinner table and earn my Dad a stern look that said without any words at all: "You are not helping!"

I meet regularly with my Franciscan friends and as Tertiaries we are often discussing at length the rule of life and aims of the order. At our last meeting, we were unpicking the meaning of the aim to live simply. What does that mean for us who live in the world rather than in a monastery where owning nothing and wanting nothing appears to be easier to commit to. This aim is perhaps not asking us to sell everything and live as mendicants but instead is calling us to live with what is "enough". To let go of all the trappings of life that get us caught up and drawn away from Christ. For each of us, those trappings will be different.

As I am moving towards ordination to the priesthood in a little over a week and half (God willing) I am thinking and reflecting even more on what it is to "be

enough". It is something that I struggle with, in my need to strive and achieve. Particularly as this journey has taken much, much longer than was anticipated, with so many twists and corrections, so much loss and heartache along the way that there have been days when I didn't think I could take any more setbacks. It made me question my worthiness, my "enoughness" to be a priest.

Of course, none of us are worthy. But we are all enough.

In a discussion with colleagues last week at a national conference entitled "Equipping the Called" for female ordinands and curates, we were laughing about the fact that Jesus seems to factor in all of our mistakes, our quirks, our failings and calls us anyway. Laughing? Perhaps we shouldn't be laughing about it – but perhaps we should. It is a relief to know that despite every human failing that we have, Jesus loves us so much we are able to overcome them, actually better than that – we are able to use them in a way that only God understands. We are transformed. All he wants from us is the willingness to show up and listen, learn and do. Such a relief.

And not just for those of us who have been called to a particular ministry. It must surely be a relief for all of us. All of our striving to be can just be. Just being is enough. Being who Jesus called us to be – in whatever walk of life, is enough.

We don't need fancy titles or loads of stuff. (Although I do think books might be an exception, but that's just me!) And we know from the past five months that we don't necessarily need to be in a particular building to still be "church". We do love our special place, steeped in local history and set aside for prayer and worship. We do love that it is a symbol of God's presence in the community but so are we as individuals and families as we go about our lives in as much of a Christlike way as we can muster – and some days we can muster more than others. But that's ok. Because it is enough.

We can rest in our "enoughness" knowing that Jesus holds us. We can bring to him our sense of unworthiness, of smallness and he will show us that we are enough.

We hope to be open for worship services soon, but only when we are ready. As you know, we are prayerfully and carefully moving forward with our plans to reopen for led services but we are being lovingly cautious in our approach.

When we do come together for Holy Communion, after months of being apart and unable to celebrate this very special time together each week, we will not be taking it for granted of that I am sure. We will have new understanding of what it is to celebrate the feast together, in one place. And what a feast! A tiny, round disk of bread that will allow us to share in that special meal with Jesus and the disciples, connecting us to them and to Him and to every single other Christian believer who has shared this meal over millennia.

A tiny round disk of bread that will sustain us in body, mind and soul.

It is not a full meal, yet it is a feast.

It is a reminder to us that in Jesus, we are enough.

