

CRACKED WIDE OPEN

Diocesan Lent Course 2021

Reflection Two

Some words from the gospel for today.

For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?. Indeed what can they give in return for their life? Life is itself a gift. It's not something we can trade, and yet we do also seek to give some sense of value to who and what we are.

Some friends of mine on holiday recently told me a story of getting back from the worst holiday they'd ever had. One of them had lost all the money and the ticket and they couldn't travel, and the only way they could find a means of getting back home was to beg for their ticket. And that experience of going and having to ask other people for something was a very profound one because it was saying, "Can you help me?" I have nothing. I am dependent upon you."

The two things I want to reflect on are trade and authenticity. Our life is God's gift to us. How we live that life in society as part of a whole network of interaction must always draw from the sense that this life is gift, and not only is it our own gift that we are sharing with others, but what we receive from others is also gift.

It's important that this interchange between us references God's giving, and it's important therefore that we recognize that life, what we do, how we relate to each other, carries with it the thread of reverence, for in you, whatever it is you give to me, I see God as the giver, and in whatever exchange I make, God is the giver. This week as we reflect in our Lenten programme on how we live with each other in society, let this sense of interaction be characterized by reverence.