Thought for the day Friday 19.06.2020

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Ancestry

Good morning.

A few weeks ago I began a new project one that had been in the pipeline for quite some time. One I had often thought about but had not quite got around to. I thought this is an ideal time, with few distractions a time I could focus my attention on the task in hand. Good intentions needless to say the project is not yet completed but the journey is enjoyable. Some time ago I was given a present of an ancestry book a ‘my family’ book. I have spent time amassing lots of family information, a bit like births, deaths and marriages and much more, schools attended, jobs held, family holidays etc. and I have looked through many, many albums of family photographs which I have quite enjoyed as they bring back many precious memories. I now have an envelope full of photographs ready to insert into the book. I have made some progress with writing the required information onto the relevant pages. I have also recalled memories of times long gone. Some pages will be left blank because I do not have the information that is needed. Some of the information my family will hopefully fill in, in the future. I have spent some time thinking of family dynamics and what it means to be family and of the love shared between families.

Families come in many forms, large families, and small families.

We are also part of the church family not linked biologically but linked by our Christian faith. We belong to the extended church family around the world. We are also adopted into the family of God, Paul wrote to the people of Ephesus in Ephesians 1: 5 *In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Christ Jesus, according to the purpose of his will.*

Our reading comes from the Gospel of John chapter 1 v9-13 – English Standard Version

*9The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Families are important, having a sense of belonging is important. We have been and I suspect still do miss the interaction and personal contact with our families. With restrictions easing we look forward to the days when we can once more meet together in our family groups without being 2 meters apart.

Out of His love for us God sent his Son into the world to show us the way, to lead us out of darkness into light . Jesus came by the gift of God a gift which is grace given and we have been given membership into the family of God. We did not earn that gift it was given to us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Let us pray

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for our families, for the sense we have of belonging,

for the love we share between us.

Father help us not to take them for granted.

We pray for all who are separated from their family.

We thank you that we are members of your family and that we can call you Father.

Knowing you love and care for us,

knowing that we can turn to you in time of happiness and in time of need.

We give you thanks that you welcome us into your family and never turn away from us.

In Jesus name.

**Amen.**

I have chosen a Hymn from Singing the Faith 72 Father God I wonder

Father God I wonder how I managed to exist

without the knowledge of your parenthood and your loving care.

But now I am your child, I am adopted in your family, and I can never be alone

‘cause father God, you’re there beside me.

I will sing your praises, I will sing your praises,

I will sing your praises for ever more.

Ian Smale (b. 1949)

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMuvGb7KDE8>

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