


REFLECTION - 1



"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:15)

There are many reasons to be generous and many ways in which that can be expressed. But perhaps underlying the reasons is the recognition that we're grateful for something. As Christians, our generosity, is inspired by the generosity of God's love and grace. Day by day we are offered the uplifting, strengthening and empowering gift of God through the Holy Spirit. Day by day we can live assured in the knowledge of God's love for us.

In Liverpool Cathedral there is a large neon sign created by the designer Tracey Emin. It reads, 'I felt you and I knew you loved me'. It is a bit of an ambiguous statement, leaving, as I think it was meant to, the opportunity for reflection on what it might mean. To me it speaks of sensing God and the love of God for us really powerfully. We may not always be able to articulate our feelings about God as well as we might hope, but inside us, we know God is there.

And with that realisation we reflect more deeply on the work of Jesus who taught us to love one another, and who showed us how to do it in his earthly life. And of course he showed the greatest act of love and sacrifice on the cross. And that sense of God's presence, the display of his love and the challenge he offers to love one another is one that we surely respond to with gratitude. And gratitude is followed by a response.

Paul's words in the verse for today talk of peace in our hearts. It's a peace we can be confident of, 'I felt you and I knew you loved me' emphasise our recognition of God, a recognition that touches us. So this speaks of an inner peace certainly but to truly know inner peace, we recognise that we part of one body and as another member of the body has needs so we are called to respond. And one powerful way in which our thankful response is manifested is through our generosity. It is as we recognise need in whatever form, and use what we have and can to address that need generously.



Diolch yn fawr Archdeacon Ian Rees!