

Reflection for Sunday 28th July 2024 – Trinity 9

I did not intend to stay for long, so I turned down the invitation to have a cup of tea.

On my way out, I glanced into the kitchen and saw that everything has been laid out ready, and the best china too! For the hope had been that I would stay a little longer.

So in the training of clergy about parish visiting, I always say, "Never say no if refreshments are offered."

'A man came bringing food from the first fruits' (2 Kings 4:42)

'There is a boy here who has five loaves and two fish' (John 6:9)

Two verses from today's readings where such a small gift is offered that it surely could not meet the needs of the people. The food offered by Elisha could surely not stave off the hunger of one hundred men and nor could the offering of the boy where there were at least five thousand mouths to feed.

But even if only a small thing is given, with God's blessing the yield can be enormous.

'Where did this man get these miraculous powers Isn't this the carpenter's son?....and they took offence at Him' (Matthew 13: 53-57)

The people of Jesus' home town could not accept that one of their own could hold in His hands the key to health and wholeness – and their salvation.

So they rejected him.

The message is clear. Do not withhold that which you are able to give, even if the gift is so small in your eyes.

Never regard with contempt a gift offered to you by another because it seems paltry in relation to the need you think you have.

For the kingdom of heaven is like a person who says "yes" to the smallest offering, knowing that the power of Christ is contained within every fragment.

With love,
Fr Andrew