

St Peter's, Ealing  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
Rogation Sunday/ Easter 6 YrB

You did not choose me but I chose you.

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Brokenness is a good word. It is very onomatopoeic. It tells you, in its sound, in the way the word rolls around in your mouth, in bits, exactly what it means. It allows us to be and to acknowledge the state of being broken. In this way broken extends from the damaging of an inanimate object to a state that can be felt within our human state. To be broken then can describe how we are. To be in bits, yet with that sense of static-ness too. A broken object is incapable of moving backwards or forwards. It is just there in its incomplete state, being broken.

We can and do hide our brokenness, sometimes intentionally, sometimes not, by getting on with our day-to-day life. but we are not moving on. We are not growing. We are not becoming more today than we were yesterday; because we are broken. We look around us at the world in which we live and the people among whom we move and we are amazed or jealous at the completeness of their lives whilst we go on living in what seems to be our unusual state of loss or loneliness or guilt or anger – our state of brokenness.

As a parish priest I have realised over the years how common brokenness is. We are all broken to some degree. We all carry our own burdens every day that prevent us from being complete. We all carry grief, guilt, loneliness, loss, anger. It is part of the human condition. We engage in our world where we get hurt. As our life story unfolds people become part of that story. It is people we lose, we love, we don't understand. People who intentionally or not betray us, leave us, or whom we betray. It's how social interaction works. it is how we make friends and break hearts. It is how our completeness gets cracked and we become broken.

Today sees the beginning of Mental Health Awareness week. This week we are encouraged to stop and listen to the world around us. to hear each other in our needs, hopes and desires. We are encouraged to recognise the need for good

mental health in all of us whilst recognising in ourselves and others the struggle we are having with our own mental health.

Jesus' command to love is a call to completeness. In this final discourse from John's gospel Jesus calls us to love on another. In fact Jesus does go on a bit about love. It is possible we miss an important part of this discourse that is vital for our understanding of Jesus' call to love.

Jesus tells us that through this love he is in God, that God is in him and if we open ourselves to this love we too can have God and Jesus in us. Jesus's call to love is a call to completeness. Us being made complete in God's love, Gods love filling us and healing us. The unconditional, unlimited and unquestioning love. We are made whole in this gift of love profoundly expressed by God in giving us the gift of his only Son to be our saviour.

Sometimes it sounds like a bit of nonsense but here is Jesus saying first and foremost, 'I love you, and I have given my life for you, that you may know this love in abundance.' This is God's healing gift to us. Yes, be still carry much within us but in that declaration of love, if we accept it and receive it with an open heart we too can know the healing power of God which helps is each and everyday to pick up our broken nature, to be healed and to be helped to move forward.

Jesus chose us. He chose to fill our lives with love because he wants us to be healed and to move forward in our lives. To love and cherish ourselves and others so that we can be fruitful. The fruit we will bear is that borne of sharing God's love with those around us, that is why it is fruit that will last. So receive God's love into your lives today, be healed and bear the fruit of that love in your lives.

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