

St Peter's, Ealing
Sunday 13th March 2022
Lent 2 (Family Mass)

Taking time to sort stuff out.

As many of you will know Friday is Fr David's day off. Throughout the week I work away in my office, when I'm not out at meetings or visiting as the week goes on my desk gets pretty messy. Dirty mugs, scattered papers, pens rulers, paperclips, theology books and study packs; all the stuff you get on a working desk. So on Thursday afternoon, if I have time and am not off to a meeting I tidy this chaotic desk. I clear away and file papers, I tidy books away back onto the bookshelf. Rubbish is put in the bin, recycling or rubbish, and the collection of dirty mugs find their way to the dishwasher. By the end of the afternoon the desk is looking all ship shape and Bristol fashion. Ready for the next time I come to the desk to work. This always feels good. I like looking at my now tidy, clean, clear desk.

I guess you've not reached that stage yet. I hope you do get a sense of achievement when a task is completed, especially if it is a task you don't much enjoy. Getting it done and dusted is a good thing. Maybe it's having to clean your sports equipment, tidy away your shoe, even dare I suggest tidy up your bedroom. When the job is finally done and your parents/teacher have stopped nagging you it must feel a relief.

There's a metaphor for Lent here, I think. Lent is a time of tidying up our lives. We get carried away with the discipline of giving up but we often forget why we have this discipline.

Lent isn't quite like tidying a desk. Tidying up our lives and sorting ourselves out takes a bit more determination. It is why in Lent we take on a spiritual discipline. This may be giving something up or, in my mind better still, talking something on. Whatever we choose to do helps us to focus on why we are doing it, what this season of Lent is all about.

In the context of our faith this is all about getting closer to God. recognising God walks with us each day. Accepting god loves us even in our brokenness and with our imperfections. Recognising we are not perfect, seeing who we are, redressing what we can and seeking to be better people helps us to walk more closely with God. it is those things that make our life untidy and chaotic that get between us and God. Jesus tries to show us this as he brings healing in to the world.

So, as you travel through Lent this and every season take time to reflect on who you are and what is in your life. What gets in the way of God and what needs tidying up and putting away to allow you to come closer to Him. In coming closer you will know God's love for you as shown to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. You never know, as you sort stuff out the sense of achievement could be eternal.