

Stop turning my Father's house into a market

When the Temple in Jerusalem was first built, those visiting would have been stunned by its grandeur.

Before long the extraordinary nature of the place would have become an ordinary part of the lives of those who lived in or close to this sanctuary.

Once there was this familiarity then blindness invariably followed, and people began to take the space for granted, using some as a market place.

Turning the sacred into the everyday, and then ignoring its value

Why I wonder are we always surprised when the evenings get lighter, and the crocus and daffodil appear.

My mother was brought up in Donegal. Way out on the west coast of Ireland. Where the local towns were down one street, and out the same street. She told the tale of seeing a family of early American tourists stopping their car to look at the view, of rugged hills rising out of the blue angry sea.

My mother gazed wondering what they were looking at.

They looked with the longing of an exile.

She looked with the blindness of familiarity

That familiarity having turned the sacred into the everyday.

The extraordinary into the ordinary.

Turning Gods grandeur into the everyday market place of life

A few months ago had anyone mentioned an Astra Zenica immunisation you may have thought they were referring to a science fiction novel.

There was talk of the almost impossible challenge presented to science.

There was comparison with flu and the staggering technology needed to procure the annual winter jab.

Last Thursday I went for my first injection.

Already people are breaking the rules of social distancing having an over familiarity with the promises of the national programme.

My niece in Paris gazes in envy at the rollout

We grow blind to the dangers as a result of familiarity

That familiarity turning the miracle into the everyday

The extraordinary into the ordinary

Turning Gods grandeur into the everyday market place of life.

Then of course there are relationships

Personal talents

Income beyond the necessary

Food of variety and fun

Novels

Television programmes

Burnley winning on a regular basis

No, not Burnley winning on a regular basis

Comfortable and clean cloths

A warm home

Music

The advent of a full moon

The trees coming into leaf

Darwen's vast variety of fast food outlets

Our faith

The love we share

The personal beauty

Sadly with the passing of time we look back and see that world with longing

We grow blind to what is here because of familiarity

The familiarity turns the everyday into the mundane, the boring

The extraordinary into the ordinary

Turning Gods grandeur into the everyday market place of life.

But that market place is in a temple

Look with the eyes of faith at the wonder

During lent attempt to see beyond your worries and preconceptions

Do not turn the beauty into the dull

Turn to Christ and as the bread and wine are turned into the risen glory

Allow each day of your life to turn, and turn again into the wonder.