

TRUTH

I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believed in me shall not thirst.

We live in a very troubled and complicated world. It is the younger generations I worry about. I know I have lived a long time and I know how much the world has changed over those many decades but I can look back over my life and recognise to some extent the “good old days”. Life was so much simpler then. I know it was hard recovering from a terrible world war and we were not rich but we were not conscious of being poor. There were many problems but we were able to look forward, with hope, to a brighter future. Perhaps, we were naïve, but there seemed to be a certain decency, a moral code, that seems to be lacking in many parts of our society today. I think this decency is displayed in the television series “Call the midwife”, which is set in those post war years. We grew up knowing the difference between what is right and what is wrong. There were clear rules to guide us although we still made mistakes. Nowadays, things are very liberal. Children today are growing up in a very confusing world. They seem to be in a constant struggle to keep up with their peers. They are so vulnerable to all sorts of influences.

I am not a fan of modern technology. I think that people of my generation are as confused and as vulnerable as the children are. I think I would have to pass a Master’s degree just to understand the language it uses. I am constantly being warned to watch out for scams and at the same time I am being advised to bank on line and to carry out all my business on line. Because of a problem I have with my eyesight, I have great difficulty doing anything online. At one time I could walk to the village and call in at the bank and ask the advice of a Bank Manager, a human being. Now, there are no banks in the village. If I need advice, I am told to ask Alexa or Siri. I do not know who they are but I know they are not human. Recently, I tried to pay for a new garage door but was told I could only pay online and as they were now paperless, they could not give me a written invoice or receipt, not even a hand written one. They sent me an e-mail with an attachment that I still cannot translate. A few days ago, Father Tom spoke about Doubting Thomas. I think I must be doubting Tony. I have no confidence in Artificial Intelligence when I see how it is misused, not only by criminals but also by rich, influential and powerful men, to bring about such evil. I am shocked to see the President of one of the most powerful nations misusing it and acting in such a vitriolic and unpresidential manner. It saddens me for I know that AI has the potential to do so much good if it is used wisely, but I fear there are so many unwise people taking advantage of it.

I have been a catholic all my life for I believe that in the Holy Church I find truth. I know that God is the creator of all that exists and He loves all that He created. He made me and loves me. I have so much to be grateful for. I attend mass as often as I can, for I know that is where I will find the real truth. As I listen to the readings from the scriptures and the priest’s homily explaining their meaning, my eyes and ears are opened to the truth. In the reception of Holy Communion my heart is opened to the real presence of Jesus. When I first enter church, I look at the tabernacle and say, “Dear Jesus, who for the love you have for man remain night and day in this sacrament, full of compassion and love, awaiting, calling and welcoming all who come to visit. I believe you are present and I adore you from the depth of my nothingness. The reception of the Blessed Sacrament, the body and blood of Christ, encourages me to carry on trying as best I can to accept whatever this troubled world puts before me. I firmly believe that, ultimately, good will triumph over evil.

May God bless us all.