

Easter week 2 2023

“As the Father sent me

But how is that done?

How as the Roman Catholic Church in Darwen are we being sent.

Does it mean we should all be standing at street corners proclaiming the resurrection?

Does it mean we should wear badges, both on our clothing, and in our interactions?

This may have real traditions in our faith, but it is not really a part of our culture

Those who knock on our doors tend to annoy us

Those who are aggressive in their proclamation of faith tend to get on our nerves

So how do we respond to this call from Christ to be sent

Indeed you have already responded

You have already responded

You are the physical presence of our faith in this town.

Driving around Darwen you will sadly come across Public Houses that have recently closed. With windows shuttered, and welcoming signs promising things that are no longer there.

There is still alcohol consumed in our society

There may even be more consumption in the modern age.

With walls of boxes of beer in supermarket halls .

But there is no the darts team

There is not the football league

No Dad in the Bar, the family in the lounge
The sense of community is going
Indeed you probably do not have a regular
Most of you are more regularly here at church
than any other gathering

We are one of the few places of clear identity and community

The message of Christ is a message of community

Your presence sustains that community

You have responded to Christs call

Indeed you financially pay for the upkeep of what many in our community take
real advantage of.

The harshest and clearest example being funerals

The fee that the Church receives for a funeral is at present £230

If you consider the time of the minister, and the use of the heated building this
is not so much.

But this is only a part of the gift

The church is a place of beauty and dignity which you maintain

The traditions of the Roman Catholic funeral you support

The hope of the promise of Christ you voice in your faithfulness

Others who are poorer than you feed of this

The richness of your faith

Giving dignified expression to their grief

You have responded to Christs call

Indeed dignity is at the core of our faith

Your faithful presence proclaims that dignity

We have many baptisms

What are they all looking for
There is the celebration of the day
When the goodness of that child and family is expressed
The faithful truth that this is a child of God
Loved and worthy of respect
Even those who seek only a path into the school
Are looking for the catholic ethos
When they themselves are not capable of commitment
Would Christ refuse?
Do you refuse?
The gospel is beautiful
It is still proclaimed because of you
The wisdom of 2000 years
Evident because you breathe life into its practice
Forgiveness
Hope
Kindness
You over this last year have given thousands of pounds to desperate people
And they ask you to pray for them
Knowing you go to church.
Jesus has risen from the dead
And our faith is that we shall all follow
You however have been given special responsibility
And by your presence have shown that you have responded to the call
We in this country are in a post Christian age
You are the saints of this age.