

## **You are the Body of Christ**

This event that you are now taking place in is being witnessed by people that have no faith.

The support that you give to feed and clothe me the priest. To maintain this building is witnessed by people that would want to have a guiding influence in their lives.

Your prayers. You're singing. Your participation is a physical expression of faith.

Then there is all the many acts you do which are inspired by faith.

You are the living body of Christ here in Darwen

But you say

The Church is weak. The numbers are down. Who are we to influence a society which will follow the shallow culture of celebrity, and then choose to ignore the deeper obligations of faith?

Who are we to make a difference?

What have we got to work with?

They said "We have no more than five loaves and two fish."

Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.

The events of your life are being witnessed by people that have no faith.

The sacrifices that you make for those you love. Your commitment to maintain the home you live in, the food you eat, is witnessed by many who want to have such patterns of life.

Your forgiveness of self and others. Your attempts at support. Your kindness.

These things in part are inspired by your confused participation in faith.

You are the living body of Christ here in Darwen

But you say

I am weak. I have failed in the past and am sure to repeat this pattern. Who am I to influence which will follow the shallow culture of celebrity, and choose to ignore the deeper obligations of faith.

Who am I to make a difference?

What have I got to work with?

They said "We have no more than five loaves and two fish."

Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.

The events of your efforts when tired or ill are being witnessed by people that have no faith.  
The day you forced yourself to get dressed and have breakfast. The time you lived with your fear and  
made your way past the crisis. The occasion of your failure, when you began again. Have been  
witnessed by those who do not feel they can do it.

Your forgiveness of self and of others. Your attempts and integrity.

These things in part are inspired by your confused participation in faith

You are the living body of Christ in Darwen

But you say

I am weak. I have failed in the past and am sure to repeat this pattern. Who am I to influence those  
who follow the shallow culture of celebrity, and choose to ignore the deeper obligations of faith?

Who am I to make a difference?

What have I got to work with?

They said "We have no more than five loaves and two fish."

Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.

And they all ate and were satisfied

And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

More than enough

More than enough

Have the humility to accept what you are

Have the faith to make the most of what you have

Be it five loaves and two fishes

Be it what energy you have left

Be it no more than an attempt

Use what you have

You are the Body of Christ

Making visible the love that God has for all.