

The Temple

Christ has come to the Temple of Jerusalem. This was a place that was, and still is extremely important to the faith of Abraham. So much so that even now there are passionate disputes about its ownership and use.

And yet the Temple is not the most important item in the faith.

The Jewish people, Christianity itself is a faith of the book. The bible, the Torah. Which travelled with the people. Making it possible for the identity of faith to be practised anywhere that the scriptures were read.

Then that stage further the place of faith of the Roman Catholic Faith is not a building, not even a book, but a person. The person and nature of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is in Christ whose body was destroyed upon the cross and in three days arose from the dead.

The physical, bleeding, breathing body of Christ.

Who learned with Joseph the arts of carpentry

Who touched the eyes of the blind and made them see

Who walked upon this earth and shared even after the resurrection a simple meal of fish with his apostles, cooked upon a charcoal fire.

It goes around in full circle

You are made in the image and likeness of God

The ordinary takes on eternal significance

The new temple is the body of Christ

The new temple is your body

In imitation of Christ

Baptised and sacred

Each one of you is the Temple of the Holy Spirit

Each one of all of you is a temple of the Holy Spirit

That hand, that eye, that foot is sacred.

It may not work as well as it used to do. But it is still sacred.

Now comes the challenge

Now comes the mission

Now comes the passion

And the discomfort

How do you care for this Temple of the Holy Spirit?

How do you care for your body?

So important to the faith of the Roman Catholic Church

What do you feed the physical needs of your body?

Surly at least one decent meal a day

Surly not only the easy option from the frozen food supermarket trolley

Surly not an excess of chocolate at the cost of your Christ like teeth

To care what you feed your body

Is to care for that sacred Temple of the Holy Spirit

And in imitation of the nature of God made man

It is a part of your faith

What do you feed the intellectual needs of your brain?

That organ that distinguishes you from the monkey

Surly at least one exercise, crossword, Sudoku, or stimulation beyond bland television

Surly more than the justification of your opinions by calling upon those who agree with you on the internet

Surly more than that with which you are always comfortable,

Or is that too deep

To care what you feed your brain

Is to care for that sacred Temple of the Holy Spirit

And in imitation of the nature of God made man

It is a part of your faith

What do you feed your soul?

That part of you which gives your nature character

Surly more than the neurotic cycle of bad news on the radio, when there is a God given capacity to see beyond to the good.

Surly more than the yearning to sleep in the seductive warmth of despondency, shaking your whole being and awakening to a greater reality

Surly more than the conventional when all that is needed is the will to see the beautiful

To care what you feed your soul
Is to care for that sacred Temple of the Holy Spirit
And in imitation of the nature of God made man
It is a part of your faith

This building is a wonderful Church
But it not as wonderful as you
Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit
I do not ask that you give up sausages and eat only organic lettuce
I do not ask that you read Tolstoy's War and Peace
I do not even ask that you pray for four hours a day

But I do ask you to realise
That you are sacred
That Roman Catholic Teaching proclaims that you have a responsibility to care for your body
Physically
Intellectually
Spiritually
It is a part of your faith