

Beatitudes Reflection Week 3 - Blessed are the meek

A number of years ago the conclusion to a Sunday afternoon Parish outing to Westonbirt Arboretum, was attending the evening service at St Mary's, Tetbury - Prince Charles' local church. Whilst, being on the short side, I found the ancient box pews there rather enclosing that was more than compensated by a very enlightening address on the Beatitudes. Regrettably I am unable to remember what was said about most of them but the one about meekness lodged in my mind - that "meekness is the humble recognition of other people's worth".

Each one of us has a part to play by not only recognising the worth of others but also acknowledging that worth both to the individuals and to others, encouraging the individuals to make the most of the gifts with which they have been endowed by God and supporting them if anyone tries to demean them.

Most of the translations of this 3rd Beatitude, regardless of when that translation was written, keep to wording similar to that above. However, there is one modern exception - the paraphrase version of the Bible, "The Message", where this verse reads, "You're blessed if you're content with just who you are - no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourself the proud owner of everything that cannot be bought."

If we accept the gifts which God has given us and don't envy the gifts of others then we can embrace the person God has created us to be and His distinct purpose for our life.

Our children and young people today are put under tremendous pressure, particularly through social media, to conform to a certain appearance and body type and to achieve constantly in everything. Through social media they are frequently derided and verbally abused when they are “judged” to have failed. Let us make sure that we take every opportunity to recognise and acknowledge to them their worth, help them to accept and be content with themselves as they are and encourage them to use to the full their own unique gifts from God.