

Reflection Thursday Week 17 –2020

In preparation for his work a potter has to remove all the foreign objects from the clay until it is pure. Water is used to make the clay supple and more pliable. Unsurprisingly, a reminder of baptismal purification and watering. Placed in the hands of the greatest potter ever, he moulds us into perfection. We are infused with pride, honour and dignity through this preparation. It seems that tempering agents can be added to harden the clay or make it less liable to crack. The tempers used were straw, sand, salt, animal dung and grog (ground-up pieces of broken pottery) - in some ways a reflection of life. We are being moulded by the potter into something ever more beautiful, more resilient, less able to be broken by evil. These tempers reflect the difficulties and challenges of life. Straw could be our weaknesses, sand our lack of courage or perseverance. Yet, sand produces the pearl in an oyster!! The grog could reflect all the bitterness and sufferings of life. Animal dung could reflect our sins and failings. But, it is precisely these *tempers that* enable God to make us into something more beautiful as Mother Teresa would say. This implies that everything we dislike about ourselves: the wrongs we do and all our failings are precisely what our Potter needs to create someone wonderfully beautiful. Extract from a poem by **Robert LaBarge**

*. . . now He is the potter
we are the clay,
formed with a purpose
though life has its sway.
He'll bear all our burdens,
heal all our woes,
giving great beauty
from our head to our toes.*

And **Lau Tzu** "Thirty spokes meet in the hub;
but the empty space between them
is the essence of the wheel.
Pots are formed from clay;
but the empty space within it
is the essence of the pot.
Walls with windows and doors form the house;
but the empty space within it
is the essence of a home."

Bicycles on the menu

A chap goes to the off-licence on his bicycle, buys a bottle whisky and puts it in the basket on the front. Then it occurs to him that if he falls off or something happens, the bottle might break, so he drinks it all there and then.

It turned out to be a very good decision because on the way home he fell off his bike 7 times.