

Reflection Friday 8th January 2021

One of the lessons we learn from the feeding of the five thousand is that the love of God is such that there is always more than enough for us, however dismal, hopeless or impossible the situation we face. At times like these, when we feel alone, abandoned and downhearted, only faith and love can keep us afloat and since they are God's gifts to us they will not let us down. This miraculous feeding of so many indicates that Jesus was aware that we would face difficult, tragic and even horrific times. It was his way of showing us, beforehand, that he would always be there for us. What is more, after the miraculous meal, the remnants were even more abundant than those who were fed. When God leads us through our traumas and challenges, know that we are filled with blessings to be offered and shared with others. God helps us so that we, in turn, can help others, spelled out in love of our neighbour, and we have an abundance of blessings to share. Someone said that *God's love for us is like electricity. God's love is only in us when it is passing through us. It can never stop with ourselves. When we keep that love to ourselves, it dies.* The physicists among us know that if an electron stops moving it ceases to exist. To underline the source of this love, St John says that: *"Love consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that God has loved us."* What is also pertinent to this story is that Jesus engages others to share the food and the shared meal unites and strengthens the whole community just as happens in the eucharist. Sharing breeds sharing! In our sharing with others, we too help build community and strengthen ties which will benefit us all.

A couple go for a meal at a Chinese restaurant and order Chicken Surprise. The waiter brings the meal in a lidded cast iron pot. Just as the wife is about to serve herself, the lid of the pot rises slightly and she briefly sees two little beady eyes looking around before the lid slams back down. "Good grief, did you see that?" she asks her husband. He hasn't, so she asks him to look in the pot. As he reaches for it the lid rises and he sees two little eyes looking around before it slams down. Rather perturbed, he calls the waiter over, explains what is happening, and demands an explanation. "Please sir," says the waiter, "what you order?" The husband replies, "Chicken Surprise." "Ahh so sorry," says the waiter, "I bring you **Peeking Duck!!**"