

Reflection Wednesday Week 16 2022

Because of the unusually warm weather the wheat harvest is already being taken in, earlier than usual. Jesus' parable is rather timely. The importance of the harvest this year is made clear as the cost of food continues to rise sharply. We are being taught a hands-on lesson of the evils of war and the suffering caused to many innocents not involved in the war. It also teaches us that people involved in a war imposed on them must be suffering so much more.

Rt Revd Adrian Newman, in February 2022 said: *As followers of Christ, we have a vision for a new kind of society, where peace and justice prevail. Jesus called it the Kingdom of God and, contrary to all appearances, he said you could reach out and almost touch it. We have a word to describe what happens when you try to do this - it's called prayer.*

Prayer is a legitimate Christian response to the war in Ukraine; so is action: we are called to give humanitarian support, openness to refugees, a willingness to endure the economic cost of sanctions, public demonstration and private witness. We must attend to all those little wars which make up the fabric of our everyday lives, those micro aggressions where we choose to put our own desires before the needs of others. It is the accumulation of those little wars that creates the big war. All of us bear some responsibility.

*A simple Christian response to war and unprovoked aggression states that: **the only way to defeat terror is to out-imagine it.** This is our task in prayer, word and action, because ultimately war is a failure of imagination and of the primacy of love.*

A successful American farmer makes a trip to Poland and visits a Polish farm... *The American asks, "How much of what I can see is your land?" The Pole replies, "Oh from the edge of that wheat field over there, to that river over there. And what about your farmland?"*

"Oh let me tell you," the American begins to boast, "My farmland is so big, I could get in my car in the morning, drive all day, and I wouldn't reach the end of my property before nightfall!" "Yes," the Polish farmer says, "I once had a car like that too..."