

Reflection Tuesday Week 22 St Margaret Clitherow 2022

St Margaret Clitherow, née Middleton (1556 - 1586) was born in York. At 15 she married a butcher, John Clitherow. Three years later she became a Catholic. Imprisoned for non-attendance at the Protestant church, she taught herself to read and, on her release, ran a small school for her and her neighbours' children. Her husband, who remained a Protestant, allowed her to hide priests in the house. In 1586 the secret hiding places were discovered and Margaret was put on trial. If found guilty, it would have meant destitution for Margaret's children, so she refused to plead. As she couldn't be tried, she was crushed to death with a heavy stone, on 25th March 1586.

Ronald Rolheiser speaks of Jesus' **authority** in this way: *The Gospel texts never suggest that Jesus spoke with "great energy" or "powerful charisma". In describing Jesus' authority, they used the word "exousia", a Greek word with no English equivalent. What is "exousia"? We don't have a term for it, but we do have a concept: "Exousia" might be described as a combination of vulnerability, innocence, and helplessness like that a baby brings into a room. Its very helplessness, innocence, and vulnerability have a unique authority and power to touch consciences. Jesus' words had power to calm hearts, heal them, change them and, metaphorically and really, cast out demons from them. What moves the world is often the powerful energy and charisma of the highly talented; but the heart is moved by a different kind of authority, like that of Jesus.*

St Margaret Clitherow: *The Church is that one wherein the true word of God is preached, which Christ left to His Apostles, which the same Church hath always observed, the doctors preached, and Martyrs and confessors witnessed. This is the Church I believe to be true.*

I have a problem with authority:

Nobody does what I tell them!

The skipper of a 40-ton trawler which ran aground in Hull during the early hours of Sunday was reported to be 6 times over the legal limit for sailing. Authorities said they had no idea *what to do with a drunken sailor early in the morning.*