

Reflection Tuesday Week 30 – 2023

The importance of stories: *It is a great mystery that though the human heart longs for truth in which alone it finds liberation and delight, the first reaction of human beings to truth is one of hostility and fear. So, the spiritual teachers of humanity, like Buddha and Jesus, created a device to circumvent the opposition of their listeners – the story. They knew that the most entrancing words a language holds are – “Once Upon a Time...” that it is common to oppose a truth, but impossible to resist a story. If you listen carefully to a story, you will never be the same again. That is because the story will worm its way into your heart and break down barriers to the divine.*

Jesus' kingdom stories today could easily be overlooked as they are so short but St Paul helps by suggesting we are continually growing into something far greater than first imagined. The two '*before and after kingdom stories*' belie the growing process needed in between. Both suggest the we grow into becoming part of the Kingdom of God or suggest that the kingdom is part of our very essence, suggesting it is something shared - more like a family than a territory. It is also something dynamic, full of energy and life. By nature, it is something shared with others in a way that enriches them as they enrich us. The experience leads us to God, its source, whose love, as the seed ground, provides its nourishment. Isn't this why we pray in the *Lord's prayer*, "*Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven?*"

A man goes into the doctor with a penguin on his head. The doctor asks. "*And what can I do for you?*" The Penguin replies. "*Well Doctor. It started as a growth on my foot....*"