

PASTORAL LETTER



Dear Friends,

It was during severe Lockdown and there was plenty of time to spare. Now there was a family who were keen on jigsaw puzzles; the more difficult the better.

One day, the father happened to be looking at a large cardboard map of the world, hanging on the wall in his office. An idea came to him. "If I can cut that map, with my fretsaw, into small pieces, it will take ages to reassemble.

And so, he took the map home and carefully cut it into thousands of small pieces. He shook the pieces into a box and challenged his family to assemble the puzzle.

His seven-year – old daughter was the first to accept the challenge. As she took the box of pieces the father smiled to himself and thought, "That will keep her occupied for a few days."

Imagine his surprise when a few hours later she returned and announced, "By the way, I've finished the jigsaw puzzle you gave me to do. "

"How on earth did you do it?" the father asked in utter astonishment.

"It was quite simple really", she replied. "You see, there was a picture of a man on the reverse side of the map. All I did was to put the man together and the world just fitted into place."



On Sunday, when we celebrated our Harvest Festival, this story came to mind.

After the Harvest Festival, I wanted to express my appreciation to all those people, who in one way or another were involved in the planning, organising, and conducting of that special Service of Thanksgiving. And so I began to telephone those who had helped. It was amazing, how without exception they gave the credit to other people, who had assisted them.



I was deeply impressed by their generosity of spirit. It brought home to me the moral of the story of the Jigsaw Puzzle. By putting Jesus into the centre of the Harvest Festival, the picture fell into place. Like the pieces of a puzzle, every piece had a role to play. By focusing on the generosity of God all the individual pieces fitted together and completed the picture.

I would like to express my immense gratitude to every single person who played their part, big or small. And this of course includes all those parishioners who came along with glad hearts and gave so generously in cash and in kind.

The response of our people was overwhelming. The Red Cross, Hospice, Vermont Old Age Home, Loerie Park Feeding Scheme and Dorothy Broster Children's Home have all benefited from the huge conglomeration of foodstuffs, which were presented. The sorting out and allocation for distribution afterwards, was in itself a big job.

Yes, when we work together as a Team, our eyes fixed on Jesus, we will, with God's grace, perform wonders.

The Harvest Festival at St. George's will be, for me, an abiding memory of a Church working together, not for its own glory, but for that of the Lord and for the benefit of those who are not its own members.

Thank you, St. George's, you most certainly put all the pieces together and the result was truly magnificent! You put Christ first and everything else happened!!!!

It is my immense privilege to be your servant leader,

+ Paddy

