DO NOT DISTURB

RUMBLINGS FROM THE BUNKER

Aw give ma head peace! Can't you see I'm busy? Leave me alone! I need a bit of space!

Of course we all need a bit of space. Down time is good for us. Arguably time alone is essential to our mental health and well being. We should never confuse loneliness and solitude.

However, is it possible that we take this to extremes? Do we overdo the leave me alone?

Have you a permanent Do Not Disturb sign on your forehead? What's that all about?

Is there not something a little selfish in the Do Not Disturb approach, especially when taken to extremes?

Indeed a permanent, or even regular, Do Not Disturb message to those around us may in fact be unchristian.

I guess it depends on what Do Not Disturb means. Leave us alone.

We are comfortable white middle class straight Irish Roman Catholics.

That's a strong Do Not Disturb.

How many sins can you spot in that statement?

Is difference threat or potential? Do we convey a closed door, a closed heart?

Here's a thought...is it not the case that we are called to be open to being disturbed?

Is not being disturbed, and indeed at times, being disturbing, part of being a follower of Jesus?

Is there a more disturbing, more challenging figure in history than Jesus of Nazareth?
Is it not that they were so disturbed by him that they plotted to kill him from before he was born?

Maybe you prefer a cosy cute little Jesus? Lock him in the tabernacle. Leave him there.

What do you do with the Jesus who says he has come to bring fire, not peace but a sword? Get behind me Satan. Your ways are not God's but man's. Please show me the wishy washy Jesus, the grey, neutral, politically correct, cosy, bland Jesus. Of course you can't. He doesn't exist. He's far more exciting, far more attractive than that.

Do Not Disturb? No! Please disturb me! Bring on the disturbance! Teach me how to disturb, give me the courage and wisdom to disturb others in love! Lord preserve me from complacency. Let me not feed suspicion or worse still animosity to the stranger, the different, the new.

Yes Lord disturb me. Disturb us. Help us sing a new song. Try a new dance. Lord that we might be rattled, shook....well ok then, even nudged a little out of our stupor!

Fraternally, JoeMcD 31.08.25