

# **DID YOU QUEUE?**

## **RUMBLINGS FROM THE BUNKER**

I had a very strange dream the other night. I was in a queue with lots of people before me and behind me. In some places there seemed to be great excitement around particular people. One of these figures was nearer to me than the others. He was dressed in a beautiful blue and yellow silk robe. As I strained to get a closer look, I could see that he was wearing a fairly modest crown, pushed back slightly on his old brown rugged head. It was then, to my amazement, I started to recognise some of you. I mean you as in members of the faith community in Our Mother of Divine Grace and St. Columba's, sometimes referred to as 'Ballygall' and 'Iona'. I began to see people who I meet in parish every day. After asking a few questions I realised we were in the queue for the manger. We were queuing up with the Magi, the Wise Men, to see the baby!

I hope you have been able to spend some time at the crib. Have you observed the FIVE Kings! The three VIPs from the East. The fourth King who didn't want to be seen and deviously asked the visitors to come back and tell him when they found the baby king so that he could go and visit and bring his present. His present of course was not gold, frankincense or myrrh but a butcher's knife. A knife to kill the child. The lunatic dysfunctional Herod is hovering around in the background. Of course the King of Kings makes five.

What are you bringing to the manger? What's your present? How many gifts are you bringing? I could only think of two. A reminder of my limitations. Whatever else you bring make sure to bring yourself. After all, that's what he most wants, your presence. It was interesting to see who was queuing up. If I'm honest it was even more interesting to see who wasn't in the queue. I thought there might have been a few more political leaders and I only saw three bishops. I guess sometimes the idea of 'leadership as service' is little more than a soundbite. Unfortunately power can oftentimes be an addictive elixir and makes falling on one's knees rather difficult never mind washing another's feet!

Here's a question for you. What happened the Wise Men after their visit to Bethlehem? The camels certainly needed a rest. Maybe a bit of hoof work. Hopefully the kings rested. Good food. Few pints. The Gospel tells us they took a detour home making sure to avoid Herod and his murderous plans. According to Eliot in his Journey of the Magi they went back home but were never the same again! They were changed. Changed not by wonderful teaching, a thought provoking parable, a healing miracle? No. Changed by being in the presence of the Christ Child. The King of the Universe. Changed forever by God in the presence of a helpless little baby... Where you?

'We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation.'

Journey of the Magi, T.S. Eliot

Fraternally, JoeMcD 11.1. 26