

13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Sharing

**“My true love hath my heart and I have his,  
By just exchange one for the other giv’n.”**

*Philip Sydney, Arcadia, 1581*

One of my favourite Scottish traditional songs is *The Road to Dundee*. Set to a lovely tune in 6/8 time, it tells the tender story of a young man walking with a young lady – who “appeared like an angel in feature and form” – towards her city, showing her “the road and the miles to Dundee”. As they come to the end of their journey, gifts are exchanged – a ring and a purse from her, a “gowd [gold] pin” from him – tokens they will keep forever to mark this special time. And, finally, a kiss is exchanged to seal it all.

I conducted a wedding recently where rings were exchanged – rings, please note. And I recalled with the couple that, in my early years of ministry, the *exchange* of rings was rare at weddings. *One* ring was given by the groom and placed on the bride’s finger – “With this ring I thee wed”. Nowadays, two rings are the norm, *two* rings given and received – “You give these rings in God’s name as a symbol of all you shall share in your married life together”. And this exchange is confirmed with a kiss too.

The journey of love – on a physical road to Dundee or anywhere else, or the metaphorical road of married life – carries with it the promise of sharing. We exchange lives, loves, interests, thoughts, plans, substance, fears, disappointments. Such love is not, and never should be, one-sided. For love, surely, is the sharing of *all* that matters in life.

If you choose to travel “the road and the miles to Dundee” today, you’ll find what is now known as “The City of Discovery”. Because, not only is it the base for the publisher D C Thomson, creator of *The Beano* and *The Dandy*, and the location of the remarkable new *V&A Design Museum* on Dundee’s waterfront, but it’s also the home of Scott’s research ship *The Discovery* from the 1901-1904 voyage to Antarctica. But why should “discovery” be limited to a specific location? If we learn the pleasure of sharing, the joy of giving and receiving, the satisfaction of exchanging what we are with those we love, what a discovery it will be for us all!

### **A prayer for today**

*Giving God, you give me so much to share.*

*Help me share my gifts with others and not hold back. Amen*

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