

13th April 2022
Wednesday of Holy Week

Precious

“Precious ... My Precious!”

J R R Tolkien, Lord of the Rings (Gollum, referring to The Ring)

When I was a student, my sports' team won an inter-university trophy. In celebration, the cup was filled with whisky several times and passed around (pre-Covid days ...) before our coach journey home. Between pub and bus, the guy who had the cup stole a bike and headed off, weaving dangerously and swinging the cup like a madman. He disappeared down an alleyway, and we heard an almighty, cartoon-style, crash as trashcans, stolen bike and recalcitrant student had an unsurprising coming-together. However, the lad soon reappeared bleeding and bruised, but waving the trophy triumphantly and shouting, “It’s OK guys. The cup is fine!”

“The cup is fine!” The trophy was safe and undamaged, despite the danger it had been in and the unruly behaviour of at least one of the team. “The cup is fine!” Despite its guardians being the worse-for-wear and messing up the responsibility they’d had, the precious cup made it home.

Through Holy Week, we carry a precious trophy that’s been committed to our care, the glory of the Easter Gospel. But we may be so over-familiar with it that we don’t carry it as carefully as we should. We may feel we’re too busy, or too wayward, or too unconcerned, to do justice to our task. Our human failings may put it in danger. We may mess up the responsibility we’ve been given. There might even be the occasional crash along the way. But here’s the truth: the precious trophy *will* come safely home. Despite the errors of our ways, “The cup is safe!”

In today’s Lectionary reading from Hebrews, the writer says this:

Let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Despite all that might weigh us down this Holy Week: mistakes we’ll make; inadequacies that will threaten to spoil things; possible disasters or crashes; let’s remember that, every Eastertide, despite our human failings, what is most precious in our lives of faith will be brought safely home.

A prayer for today

*How precious is your Love! How inadequate we are as guardians of it.
Yet how sure we remain in the victory won for us and the Gospel we can cherish. Amen*

An original reflection by @ Tom Gordon Also available at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>