

15th April 2025

Passing

“We bless each other even in the passing.”

Julia Cameron, *Blessings* (1998)

Like many roads in the north of Scotland, there are long stretches on the Ardnamurchan peninsula which are single track, and nine feet wide. (I know that because, as a student, I worked in a road-repair squad, making sure that on either side of the metalled road there was sufficient “bottoming”, so that if an unsuspecting driver slipped off the tarmac there was no danger of sinking up to the windscreen in a peatbog!) The surfaces are generally good, there are plenty places to pass, and there’s useful signage to remind drivers who’re new to this of the necessary “rules of the road”: “Single track with passing places”; “Please use passing places to allow overtaking”; “Do not park in the passing places”.

It works! People are generally careful and courteous. You’re always acknowledged with a cheery wave as an on-coming car passes, with the same courtesy being expected from you as someone waits to let you through. Passing people on these roads is a way of life. No one is more important than anyone else. Everyone has somewhere to get to. There’s acknowledgement and patience, for we’re all driving on the same roads and facing the same issues. And thank God for passing places!

Julia Cameron is an American teacher, author, artist, poet, playwright, novelist, filmmaker, composer and journalist, most famous for her book *The Artist’s Way* (1992). The quote above comes from her book, *Blessings: Prayers and Declarations for a Heartfelt Life*, and is worth reading in its fuller context.

I honor [*sic*] my importance and the importance of others. None of us is dispensable, none of us is replaceable. In the chorus of life each of us brings a True Note, a perfect pitch that adds to the harmony of the whole. I act creatively and consciously to actively endorse and encourage the expansion of those whose lives I touch. Believing in the goodness of each, I add to the goodness of all. We bless each other even in passing.

“Believing in the goodness of each, I add to the goodness of all.” Now, there’s something worth remembering as we make our way along life’s roads, single-track or otherwise, and thank God for passing places!

A prayer for today

Lord, as we bless each other in the passing, may your blessings be with us all. Amen