

**R**ecycled clothing and charity shops are an expanding phenomenon. Do you ever wonder about the previous history or future story of items that we possess for a short time – be it a bank note or something else? It came up in an interesting storyline in one episode of the TV series *The West Wing*. It had US presidential advisor Toby called by police to the death of a homeless man. It turned out that the man was wearing a coat that Toby had given to charity and it still had his business card in the pocket. ‘Did you know him?’ the police officer asked.

‘No,’ answered Toby, but he was later sparked into action by a troubled conversation with a fellow staffer who told him that as he didn’t know him, it didn’t matter. Toby found himself unable to forget this homeless man, contacted the deceased man’s equally homeless brother and arranged a proper funeral for him. A powerful government worker was stung into awareness and acted – because it was the right thing to do, and we are all ultimately connected. All this happened because of the discarded coat of a powerful man.

Maybe we are called to cast off a lot of the external stuff and get to the core of things; to realise our common connection; to know that wisdom often comes from unexpected places and, indeed, people. Jesus knew that often his message would be rejected.

### After the Consecration

The mystery of faith.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

### THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour’s command ...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, ...**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, ...

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And with your spirit.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins ...**

Behold the Lamb of God, ...

**Lord, I am not worthy ...**

**Communion Antiphon** (Cf. Ps 83:4-5)

**The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.**

**Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord, that, by our participation in this mystery, its saving effects upon us may grow.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## A DIFFERENT WAY

After all, some people knew the disciples a little too well as neighbours – there was an over familiarity: ‘can anything good come’ from them? Jesus was just another wandering preacher – of which there were many. Familiarity breeds indifference, if not contempt. There is a reason for the definition of an ‘expert’ as ‘anyone who is more than 20 miles from home and carrying a briefcase’! People tend to devalue the familiar. In doing this they can reject the power of the message. For our part, our first response may be to reject. We think to ourselves, ‘they couldn’t have any special knowledge or be qualified to tell us what we should do.’ When that happens to you, try to think again. If you are called to receive the message, do take care to look past the presenter to see the content.

Increasingly we will see lay people commissioned as parish leaders, others as catechists or sacramental program organisers. Funeral teams are being commissioned more and more. Once, some years back, a parishioner died and a religious sister led the funeral service. Everything went well of course. The Parish Priest was delighted but made an insightful comment, ‘you need the right person to die.’ What he meant was a tribute to the grieving family. Without the open heart of that family to see that a different way was needed to do things, this would not have happened.

— Tom Cox



### Reflection

Consider what power Jesus shares with the twelve. Try to enter into something of their feelings as they set out.



### Lesson

Like the disciples, we are called to share in the exorcising and healing ministry of Jesus.



### Prayer

Lord Jesus, send us out with your authority that we may preach repentance, overcome evil, and offer your healing hand to those who are sick.