



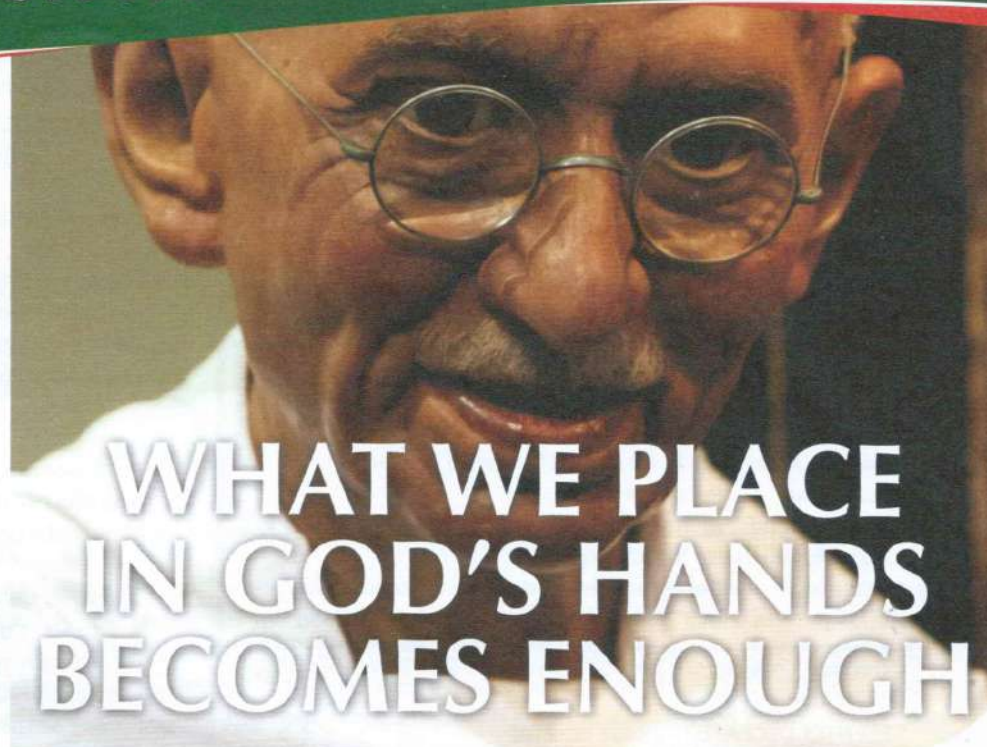
**M**ahatma Gandhi famously commented 'The earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs but not every man's greed.' Gandhi was a man intrigued by Christ and his teaching – but sadly the conduct of Christ's followers was not convincing for him. He said something on the lines of 'I like your Christ, but your Christians are so unlike Christ.' Our tendency to hoard rather than share is not Christ-like to be sure.

However, the world seems to engage more in competition for resources rather than collaboration. The drive is more to 'send them away.' It's very practical and we dress it up in language like '... well it's not my responsibility,' 'someone else will handle it,' 'there isn't enough to go around.' – or, even worse, 'Well, it's their fault for being in this situation.' Some present the multiplication of the loaves and fishes as a kind of moral miracle – with (almost) everyone shamed into sharing their secret stash. Others say it's a miracle, full stop.

When you look at the miracles of Jesus, he looks for something

**Communion Antiphon** (Wis 16:20)  
**You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.**

**Prayer after Communion**  
Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



from people: a trust, a willingness to give of themselves. And this miracle begins with honesty. He tells them to give something to eat to people and finds out there are only five loaves and two fish. It's something – not much but something. In God's hands it is more than enough. So many people today are struggling with limited resources. Hard choices are being made: eating or heating, to make that medical appointment or hope for the best.

Jesus, in the Gospels, will always ask 'what do you want' or 'what do you have' but never what you don't have. In so many ways we are tempted to avoid and not engage, to 'send them away.' Rarely do we realise that the smallest of things left in God's hands is abundance. We just need to name that 'five loaves and two fish' – that small thing that we DO have, that God

might use: a prayer uttered in fatigue, a small act of kindness, the exhausted counsellor who responds to a need, a small act of kindness, a moment of patience. We do what we can with what we have and try to avoid bemoaning what we do not have. St Paul reminds us, in the Second Reading, that nothing can come between us and the love of Christ. In the end that is enough – to leave all in the hands of an abundant God. ■

— Tom Cox



## Reflection

Feel the people's attention shifting from the food they had eaten to the food of Jesus' teaching.



## Lesson

Jesus is the real bread from heaven.



## Prayer

Lord, may we who share his body, live his risen life. We who drink his cup, bring life to others. We whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.