

Thought for the week
20th Sunday of the Year (B)
19th August 2018

The summer is a time to pause and it's hard to rush about in our ordinary busy way. The sun invites us to stop and rest, stay in the shade, close our eyes, have time to think.

I've been thinking about something I heard, and which my thoughts have returned to ever since. The speaker, Richard Rohr, an American Franciscan, talked about how much of our lives are preoccupied with WHAT: What do I have to do? What do I have to believe? What do I have to do to be a good Christian?

All this concentration on the 'what' often means that we avoid getting the '**who**' right. Rohr encourages us to begin a humble questioning, searching for the answer to who: who am I, and who is God. This was St Francis's primary prayer, deep in the cave in Assisi, through the night, he asked God "Who are you? And who am I?".

We need to let God name us and call us, instead of trying so hard to name him ourselves.

The readings this week talk about how God will listen to our prayer, and how, if we share in his life, we will live in him and he will live in us. If we are ready to let him, he will name us.

I am going to try this summer to ask the who question, rather than scurry around asking about the what.

A parishioner