

**Thought for the week**  
**20<sup>th</sup> January 2019**  
**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

After the celebration of Christmastide, we return to ordinary time and this weekend the readings remind us that we are beloved of God; God for whom nothing is impossible, God who calls us into unity, whilst making us all different.

Sometimes, in seeking unity, we forget to value differences. The verses after the set Gospel reading tell us that we are meant to acknowledge and value these differences. That although we are called to be one body of, and in, Christ each of us must be our own part; each of us must be the person we were made to be, not another person because we think that person is, somehow, 'better' than we are. Some years ago, Deacon Brian introduced me to a text written by Blessed John Henry Newman. I carry a copy with me, and I have a copy on the noticeboard next to my desk – such was the impact on me. I share it below in hopes that it might have a positive impact on you too.

2. *“God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next...I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.*

3. *Therefore, I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain...He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.”* (‘A short visit to the Blessed Sacrament before Meditation’, Meditations on Christian Doctrine, 299-302. I(2) 2-3)1848

These words, written around 170 years ago, reach down through the ages to resonate with me today, and I commend them to you. Think prayerfully on these words especially, in this week of Christian Unity, on the first sentence.

A Parishioner