

Dear Friends,

The last month at St Katherine's has witnessed an incredible amount of progress with our beautiful Church building. Slowly but surely, the wraps are coming off; the scaffolding is being removed revealing a most striking simple and remarkably stunning interior. It is not fussy or cluttered some might even describe it as plain, but its height and breadth are staggeringly majestic and from the west end to the east end your eyes and minds are drawn ever upwards to the glory of Christ Risen in Majesty.

Like the dragon fly emerging from its original grub form into the beautiful and delicate insect it becomes, St Katherine's is emerging and the light is streaming in once again through the newly unblocked windows and becoming transformed into the Light of Christ as it Radiates back out through the restored windows to HIS world.

In 1 Peter Chapter 2 vs. 9 we read "But ye are a chosen generation a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into HIS marvellous light".

We who have heard the good news of the Gospel are a chosen generation. We have been invited to step out into the glory of the marvellous light of God. We are a peculiar people set apart for a peculiar purpose. Like St Katherine's, we have been called out of darkness not through any virtue of our own, but to perform the work of witness and testimony. We are a royal priesthood of the Kingdom and it is our duty to light the candles of Christ upon the pagan altars of the children of darkness.

The marvellous Light is not a spotlight upon any particular group of persons; it is the fire of Divine love that burns at the heart of the universe It is the duty and may I say privilege of the "peculiar people" to light torches from this cosmic fire and carry them out to the ends of the earth.

There are those who would argue that it's each to their own, or that we should not force our thoughts, views and beliefs onto others, but have we not a duty to spread the Good News? Have we even the right to withhold it from others? The answer is defiantly NO, it is part of the privilege that we ourselves have been so graciously blessed as that "peculiar people", that we have to proclaim the Gospel Message wherever we can and whenever we can.

Our world is full of people who are in the grip of materialism and secularism, fear, doubt and debt, and it is increasingly clear that the world does not either have the power or solutions to solve, not just its present desperate problems, but the grave issues that are going to confront us all as we move forward.

It is the Christian who has a creed for the living and a hope for the dying. Remember, "Ye are the light of the World".

May Almighty God bless and keep you.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Father Ian