

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Thursday 1st February 2024

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

the office: the church

Jill and I have enjoyed watching The Office (US Version) on Netflix. We saw the last episode last night and towards the end, I must admit I had a bit of a lump in my throat.

The Series is in the style of a mockumentary, filmed in a documentary style, with people talking to the camera between shots of them interacting and getting on with their work. They work for Dunder Mifflin a paper company. With an ensemble cast, it deals, in a hugely exaggerated and comic manner, with all kinds of scenarios that people might encounter in an office, in terms of the work, relationships, competition, gossip, friendship, boredom, irritations, success, fear, pranks, failure, ambition, despair etc. It probably isn't everyone's cup of tea, but we both found it on the whole, joyous, funny but also moving on occasion!

I think my lump in the throat was because it was also about a community. Despite all the office tensions and bickering and irritations they were a group of people who had got used to being with each other (there were 9 seasons). They had, you feel each others backs, and while each character was very much their own personality, and unique, there was a deeper connection which held them together, however unlikely!

It reminds me a bit of the Church. When the Church is most healthy, they are a community of diverse unique characters, sometimes clashing, but being held together by a force greater than them. The church is described as a human body in the bible, which each person a part of the body; an arm, shoulder, foot, heart, kidney, eye, ear...etc and Christ is the head. And each is interdependent on the other.

I give huge thanks for the wonderfully diverse gifted loving community that is St James!

BIBLE VERSES:

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- Philippians 2:1-4