

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Friday 21st July 2023

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Tail gaters

I recently went on a Speed Awareness Course, shh, don't tell the Bishop!

The course was on Zoom and we had a very good and interesting conversation. We were thinking about the different reasons why we might have got there. And there was some very good tips and information. For the drivers among you, did you know that there were on average 70 changes to the Highway Code each year. So calculate how many years it is since you last devoured the last Highway code and multiply it by 70 and that's the amount of new rules there are out there.

I think I got caught out on this occasion because I had failed to notice that I had moved from a 30MPH zone into an 20MPH Zone, but one of the things that I also find difficult driving are tail gaters. Those who come up right behind you, pushing you to go faster. And they make you feel its your fault for holding everyone up, when in fact its they who are at fault. We were told one tip when being tail gated, if it's safe to do so, to pull over and let them go past you.

I think we all feel pressure from others 'tail gating' us in life. Some times we do need a friend to give us a push, but I am talking about those who intentionally or not, put pressure on us to do things and be in a certain way that we rather not.

Jesus was very good at pushing back on other peoples expectations and tailgating. No amount of pressure, manipulation, passive aggression, cultural norms, or any other kind of aggression could make him do something he did not want to. In that way, He was like a cat. The secret I think was He had a very clear sense of what He was about, and what He was not about.

Talking about cats, excuse me while I go and open the door for our cat Georgery, who has perfected the art of 'ringing the bell' -that's a story for another time!

I put into practice what I learnt and the next time someone put pressure on me to go faster than I should, I did pull over and let them pass. About 8 seconds later I caught up with them at the traffic lights!