

St James News: Thought for the Day - Monday 12th July 2021

Revd Kit Gunasekera

Euro 2020

Dear Friends,

Its the morning after the night before...many commiserations to England and congratulations to a very fine Italian team. It is tempting to say that it is only a game, and it is true, and yes of course there is real suffering in our world, but we have seen how sport can bring people together, and perhaps at least part of the let down many people are feeling, including the England players, is not having the chance to celebrate together. For the all the individualism our society likes to promote and often boast in, deep down, as human beings, we are connected to others.

Paul says in Romans 12:15 - Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn

He probably was not thinking of a football final, but he was thinking of the deepest place of human connection, and how we can express that. As Christians that is a given to us. It is how we understand ourselves as a church.

Celebrating together however is only one half of being connected. It is being together, and sharing in the loss. I am greatly impressed by the togetherness of the England team as they particularly support Jadon Sancho, Marcus Rashford and Bukayo Saka. As Gareth Southgate said after the match - "Nobody is on their own. We have won together as a team and it is on all of us together to not be able to win this game"

From this coming Sunday, I look forward to us being able to come back together physically to worship and be together. For many of us, that will be a gradual process. That is sensible. We have seen over the last 16 months that the Spirit who connects us transcends physical space. Whatever happens in these uncertain times, we will work it out, together!

God bless and love,
Kit.