

Thought for the day - Monday 5th July 2021

By Revd John Marshall

Fount book of Prayer Helder Camara

I was pleased to read of the Archbishop of Olinda and Recife in north-east Brazil, an extremely poor area. Helder's collection of meditations "Into your hands Lord", expresses the unconditional love he showed for the weak and vulnerable in his ministry.

God is Love
A name is not,
cannot, must not be
a label stuck
on persons or on things.

The name comes from within
the things and persons
and must on no account ring false.
It has to express

The essence of the essence,
the real reason
for the being, the existence
of the thing or person named.

Your name
is and only can be
Love.

Enrol us in your school of love

Teach us to love and be loved
in perfect transparency.

Let our love be diaphanous
lest we project
the mote in our eye

into the eye of another,
and make it a beam besides!

Let our love be transparent
lest we ever play host
to a love that is false.
Love that springs from aught but you,
love that lives in aught but you,
love that returns not to you
is not love.

Teach us to love each and every person
as if he or she
were the only person on earth.
After all,
this is how you love:
uniquely, truly, robustly,
it's perfect your way.

But our way
in this poor human clay
love creates incredible problems
given the machismo
common to the three sexes
and most particularly
to the unlucky third

Fount book of Prayer Ed Robert Van de Weyer Harper Collins