

Thought for the Day – Tuesday 16th November 2021

By Rev Kit Gunasekera

Love is not like petrol

I wonder, if you like me, found yourself looking for petrol, or diesel, during the recent fuel shortage? Did you like me, calculate how much fuel you will need in the tank to make a tour of all the petrol stations in the area, so that you knew not to go beyond that limit until you had filled up?! Of course, having filled it up, it then started to run out again, necessitating another trip to the petrol station!

It struck me recently that love is the opposite.

1 John 4:12 says ""No one has ever seen God; but **if we love one another**, God lives in us and his love **is made complete** in us."

As we love others, far from love running out, it is made complete in us. Other translations say, its made perfect in us. As we love others, love increases in us, not decreases. That does not mean that we are called to love others 24/7, we of course need rest, and time to ourselves, Jesus did all of that, but it means our capacity to love, increases. Have you felt that, when you have done something good for someone else, there is this energy, this joy, that wells up in you? That is love increasing.

Equally, if we park our love, and distance ourselves from others, and withhold our love, we find that love decreases, the capacity to love still remains but in a decreased and weaker state and we feel emptier. We need to be filled again with God's love. So, a bit like petrol then!

May we look out for those opportunities today to love others, and may we experience the joy of love growing, flooding our hearts, spilling out.

On my way home yesterday, my car indicated that I needed more petrol, so that is on my to do list today!