

Thought for the Day – Thursday 29th July 2021

By Revd John Marshall

Helder Camara, Archbishop of Olinda and Recife Brazil

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.

Aren't you going too far, Lord.....

..... with your respect for human freedom?

Your love extends to all creatures

But you reserve your special love

for the small, the simple, the poor.

Then how can you bear to see

these millions

of your sons and daughters

living in subhuman conditions

owing to the selfishness

and ambition

of unjust and oppressive minorities?

But now you must have realised

that your cataclysms –
floods and droughts,
volcanic eruptions,
typhoons,
earthquakes –
affect the little ones most of all,
whose life is already
subhuman.

Isn't it bad enough
for them to be crushed
by diseases or human weakness?

How are we to explain
what comes from you?
Is it sufficient to say
that you have given us brains
and teach us how to overcome
natural disasters?

The Baby

The baby with her tiny steps
needs to scamper a bit
from time to time

to keep pace

with grown ups

Just so, my God –

how often you take me in your arms

to spare me the embarrassment

of looking like a turtle.

Fount book of prayer Ed Robert Van de Weyer Harper Collins

The Baby reminds me of Psalm 131.

Psalm 131

¹ My heart is not proud, LORD,
my eyes are not haughty;
I do not concern myself with great matters
or things too wonderful for me.

² But I have calmed and quieted myself,
I am like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child I am content.

³ Israel, put your hope in the LORD
both now and forevermore.