

Thought for the day – Wednesday 27th July 2022

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Acts 8 - Saying Yes

Bible Verse:

The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” - Acts 8:29

I remember once visiting someone in the parish. She was housebound and was pleased to see me. I prayed that God would heal her. As I walked back home, I wondered how effective my prayer would be, and I prayed that God would do something powerful in her life. I then bumped into two further people. I was able to offer a brief encouraging listening year to one of them and the other was just glad to say hello to a priest. I remember thinking, that was God encouraging me, and when we say yes to God, He does far more than we can imagine.

Acts chapter 8, focuses on Phillip's adventures, saying yes to the Holy Spirit. At one stage, he is told, by the Holy Spirit to go to the chariot of an important man from Ethiopia and stay near it. The man, happens to be reading from the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament, but not understanding it. As a result, Phillip is able to share the message of Jesus with him, resulting in him stopping his chariot, getting baptised and going home rejoicing!

The Holy Spirit will often put it into our minds to 'go near' to someone. Sometimes, its to say hello by messaging them, emailing them, calling them. Sometimes he will ask us to sit near someone who is alone. To visit someone. To offer to say a prayer for someone, or to light a candle for them in church. When we say yes, He does far more than we can imagine.