

Thought for the day – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023

By Revd John Marshall

On the Swag R A K Mason

His body doubled

under the pack

that spreads untidily

on his old back

the cold wet dead-beat

plods up the track.

The cook peers out,

‘Oh curse that old lag –

here again

with his clumsy swag

made of a dirty old

turnip bag.’

‘Bring him in cook

from the grey level sleet

put silk on his body

slippers on his feet,

give him fire

and bread and meat.

Let the fruit be plucked

and the cake be iced,

let the bed be snug

and the wine be spiced

in the old cove’s night-cap

for this is Christ.'

From Divine Inspiration The Life of Jesus in world poetry

R A K Mason 1909-1971 he was from New Zealand

He portrays honestly the harshness of antipodean life.

In his poems his Christ refuses to offer simple comfort.

I shared this poem when we were celebrating Christ the King.