

Thought for the day – Wednesday 7th June 2023

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

The Voice

Jill has an app on her phone which identifies which birds are singing in our garden! So far, in the last few weeks we have recorded amongst others, Eurasian Wrens, House Sparrows, Magpies, Blackbirds, Greenfinches. Its been great to once again also hear a Woodpecker! Its great fun, to see when they are in action and in what combination! The app has rather disdained my attempts to impersonate a bird, not even bothering to register it as an unknown!

Jesus said once, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" He was very confident that each of us can hear his voice. It can feel quite difficult thought sometimes, as there are so many voices, telling us what is what. Sometimes they are useful, and some times they are not and sometimes they are harmful. We have all listened to the wrong voice from time to time.

The Holy Spirit is the inward app, that identifies the voice of God. Unlike Jill's app, its not an exact science and we learn to discern it as we go along. I find, that the Holy Spirit guides me through a combination of speaking directly to our thoughts and hearts, through the wisdom of others, through the bible, through nature, through what's happening around me and through common sense. I have found, in a crisis, when I have asked God to guide me in a difficult situation, that I hear enough of His voice to make a decision, but the full extent of what He has been saying only becomes clear as I go along and look back.

May we be confident, that God speaks not just to a few, but to all of us. May we persevere in learning to discern his voice more and more as we go along.