

+WEEKLY REFLECTION

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Choices ...

Luke 17:11-19

About a year ago, I had a difficult decision to make – whether to accept the tremendous honour of being invited to be the next President of the British Institute of Radiology.

I needed lots of prayer to make the decision – right up to the moment of pressing 'send' in my acceptance email. Just over a fortnight ago, I was inaugurated into that position; praise God!

I now have two years of serving our Institute, but also many beyond in other professional bodies and industry; all working together to help develop our healthcare professionals serve their patients better.

Even as President-elect, God answered my prayers – through many encounters within this professional work; encounters which might not have happened had I not been working in this way.

From requests for prayer in the train station, to discussions about Jesus in the middle of an AI conference just before Holy Week. God's call for me is to be a priest where one does not expect to find one – and serve somehow those whom I meet; fully knowing Jesus is beside me – helping and guiding through all my choices.

And choice is key this coming Sunday – starting with which one to hold in our communities. Whether choosing to it as your Harvest Festival, from which today's scripture is drawn – even there, one must choose which Luke's gospel to use!

Or Trinity 18, giving thanks for Jesus, though rejected, was and is the cornerstone of every part of our lives and the choices we make.

Or maybe your Dedication Festival – praising God for the house of prayer you inhabit and the inspiration of the spirit, through that house, to do amazing things for Jesus. Or perhaps marking the end of Creationtide – noting that the guidance given to see, reflect and act continues beyond this new season – into all the choices we might make in the future.

In Luke's gospel, only one of those cured of their illness chooses to come back to Jesus and give thanks to God; a Samaritan, and an outsider at that. And it is that faith that makes him well – in body and spirit.

That free choice of faith can also bring healing and wholeness to all parts of our lives and especially the lives of others if we choose to pray to Jesus for it; and give praise and thanks to God when our prayers are always answered - in some way. Amen.

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