



St Luke's in the City

150 years - 2009

Celebrating at the Crossroads

The Reign of Christ

23 November 2008

**"LORD, IF ONLY WE KNEW IT WAS YOU
WE WOULD NOT HAVE TREATED YOU LIKE THAT"**

When Nelson Mandela became leader of The African National Congress, he was asked to attend a meeting in Johannesburg. A Priest arranged accommodation for him with friends. However, when Mandela arrived and the lady opened the door in a answer to his knock; she looked at this "Black Man" and said "we don't want your kind here" and shut the door in his face. Later, when she found out who it was she had "shut out" she was horrified and said to him:

"IF ONLY I HAD KNOWN IT WAS YOU, I WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU THE BEST ROOM IN THE HOUSE".

It is easy to be kind to the important and famous, but it is quite another matter to be kind to those from whom we can expect nothing in return.

It was Mother Teresa who Said: "Many are starving for ordinary bread. However, there is another kind of hunger. The hunger to be wanted, to be recognised, to be loved. Nakedness is not just the want of clothes, but also about the loss of dignity and self respect. Homlessness is not just the need for a roof over your head; there is also the homlessness of being rejected and of being unwanted in today's throwaway society. One of today's greatest evils is the lack of love and the terrible indifference to one's neighbour"

This evening's showing of the DVD of The Choir of Hard Knocks is a wonderful demonstration of reaching out to those of our society who live on the margins or who are lonely or vulnerable. In my opinion, it is a great forerunner to our Blue Christmas Eucharist at 6pm on Monday 22nd December, when we as a Community of Faith endeavour to recognise Christ in those less fortunate than ourselves.

"Lord, if only we knew it was you we would not have treated you like that".

With my love,
Jim.