

Tuesday Reflection 21 July 2020

Interconnectedness is a theme running through these Tuesday Reflections, and it comes up again in today's Gospel. For Jesus, his family is more than those related to him by blood: "Stretching out his hand towards his disciples he said 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven, he is my brother and sister and mother.'"

We are, however, not only connected to other humans, but to the whole of Creation. A simple example will suffice: up to 60% of the human body is water - the brain and the heart are even composed of 73% water. Water is the basic element of life, but where does it come from?

Essentially from the heavens in the form of rain, but before that it is in the sea and is taken up by evaporation - so the rain on which we depend is essentially seawater, so the sea is part of us - or we are part of the sea. Another example: human cells only make up 43% of our body's total cell count; the rest are microscopic colonists - bacteria - without which we could not survive.

It is a sobering thought that we humans are totally dependent on the Earth for our life, but the Earth could get by perfectly well without us.

So what are we doing here? I think we are here to progress God's Love Project - to do the will of our Father in heaven, which is to reach out with love to our fellow humans - our sisters and brothers - and to all of God's Creation, and to do it joyfully. Schiller's *Ode to Joy* in the last movement of Beethoven's Choral Symphony promises of joy 'All men will become brothers on whom your gentle wing comes to rest.'

So let us pray for the grace to go out and live lives of love and joy.

Michael Townson