

Let's Get Organised!

So, who else is reeling from the shock of going back to work or school and having to think again!? The end of the summer seems to be a natural time to think about all the 'stuff' we have to start doing again after the relative calm of the holidays. All of a sudden, there are school books and uniforms to buy, and in my case, Brownie activities to arrange, clubs and organisations starting up again, and normal service resuming as colleagues and friends arrive back from the holidays. Life fills up again! It's like a jump-start to get you back into daily and weekly routines. If you're like me, you'll be writing lists of all the things you need to do, making spirited attempts to do things differently so they'll be easier/quicker/more likely to get done and telling yourself "I must get organised this year!" If so, all the best with that one!

We try and sort out a system, a plan, a timetable to make sure everything fits in and happens at the right time and place. Sometimes, it works and sometimes chaos returns by day 2! I definitely fall into the latter category; it's a minor miracle you're reading this at all as I'd forgotten which month I should be writing it for!

It's tempting, and sometimes unavoidable, to fill every last moment in a bid to get everything done. We get set in the routine and carried away with our list of tasks. Despite this, it's really important that we make time for God in all this organisation. It's easy to concentrate on our day-to-day activities in this 'Ordinary time' that Jonnie Hill mentioned last month, when we have no specific dates or celebrations to focus on. Time to pray, reflect, listen and just be with God can get squeezed out.

It was just the same in the Early Church. The New Testament letters are full of advice about spending time with God through stillness and prayer and with others in groups. We are told again and again to pray as often as possible, to pray all kinds of prayers, to talk to God as a father. The Old Testament too, has lots of examples of people who worshipped and talked with God regularly. We can see throughout the Bible that God wants that relationship with us and that through it, we will be strengthened and refreshed.

So, let's get organised and try (and possibly fail) to do all the things we need to at the right times and in the right way. Let's get to the right lesson with the right homework, arrive at the meeting with an idea of what's on the agenda, keep the red t-shirt out of the whites' wash, and don't leave the packed lunch on the kitchen table! But also let's remember to put God in the timetable and leave a space for Him each day to organise us!

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