

## Tony Thinking Aloud lvi

You are walking along; a ladder is in your path. Do you walk under it or step to one side? It is a fact that most people will avoid it, they do not want bad luck! Do they think they might be unlucky, and a pot of paint could be dropped on their head? Many people will say – it will just bring bad luck!

Where does that idea come from? The ladder, the wall and the pavement form a triangle – the symbol of the Trinity. Some would think it bad luck if you broke through the Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

What is expected to happen? The only rational thing being God will punish! But... that is not the nature of God! Problem!

The month of May seems to lend itself to a time of custom. I have often heard it is bad luck to bring May into the house, or Lilac and at another time of the year Snowdrops! There are those who avoid washing blankets in May. You may know of other so called 'superstitions'. There is a volume about Christmas – for example when is the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas and the decorations should come down otherwise it is unlucky? Is it January 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>, it depends if you count Christmas Day!

The dictionary tells me a Superstition is an excessively credulous belief in and reverence for the supernatural especially leading to good or bad luck. Who or what is the cause of all this bad luck people are avoiding? Some of the superstitions arise from happenings in the bible!

Are you an anti-triskaidekaphobian? Someone who is not concerned about bad luck on Friday the Thirteenth (some people will not go out all day!). Thirteen is thought to be unlucky as there were thirteen people with Jesus at the Last Supper on the night before he died! The thirteenth person being Judas Iscariot! Good Friday itself the cause of Friday being seen as an unlucky day by

a lot of people. If this all matters to some people, they must be expecting God to punish them!

So, think what will happen if you walk under a ladder. If it is a concern you may well cross your fingers! Reflect on that!

We need to think on superstitions rationally, rather than worry about the bad luck or that God will punish - as we need to think about the risks of Covid 19 as we ease out of lockdown. Best to think of the Hand of God being there to help us to be rational – being with us and guiding us in all situations.

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