

## Tony Thinking Aloud Ixii

So, it is Father's Day! Why the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June? Basically because the USA keep that date. It reflects Mothering Sunday, or in the USA Mother's Day!

Mothering Sunday has history which goes back many centuries. Congregations went to their Mother Church for a service on that day, in this area it would have been Tatenhill - the oldest church in the area and celebrating 700 years in 2021. For many years it has also been a day to honour and give thanks for mothers. Always the fourth Sunday in Lent.

So Father deserves the same acclaim. How do you show gratitude, or did show gratitude, to your father? What do you give? There is a limit to the number of bottles of After Shave he needs! In a magazine I saw something very practical. with no monetary cost but so meaningful all the same. There were coupons to cut out and to put in his card, he then decides when to give you the coupons. They allow you to offer 'Breakfast in Bed', 'Washing the car', 'Cutting the grass' and of course there could be others. How different and personal when that kind of gift is offered.

Reflect ... The elaborate Christmas card which plays carols or the small and carefully handmade card by a young grandchild – which do you treasure most? It is all about personal input.

This is focus on self! What we do and are prepared to do. Putting in our time and our thoughts is so personal. In the last couple of weeks, in these Musings, I hope you have joined with me in reflecting on this. We are all here to support each other. That is how life works yet it is so easy to launch out on our own path!

We need the support of others, recall Christian Eriksen who had a heart attack playing in the Euro match on Saturday. Immediate concern and support ...

everyone did what they could and needed to do – remember how his team mates stood around facing outwards giving him and the medical team privacy!

So Father's Day! We may focus on Dad in the lockdown, who we could not meet, but for email, text or Zoom! It is good to remember all his support to us now and in previous years. Concern for one another the hallmark of the Love of God shared by us all.