

Tony Thinking Aloud xxx

You are a schoolboy aged 11 very worried about going to your new secondary school, what should you do? A family friend suggests you ask someone you admire. (Sensibly the lad supports Liverpool!!!) He writes to the manager Jurgen Klopp – and gets a helpful reply.

First Jurgen Klopp tells him he sometimes gets nervous himself and struggles with anxiety. What happens when his players feel like that? He reassures them how important they are to him and how he believes in them. We have family and friends who can support us in the same way, as his advice, share your problems with them. His advice too, to be positive, look forward to the good times which will be in the future.

So let us reflect. It is good to ask someone else. A problem shared is a problem halved. Sometimes we do the helping, sometimes another person helps us. Jurgen Klopp's reply is thoughtful and caring.

The pandemic is definitely still with us and we can find ourselves in both positions. We can give support in various ways, make a phone call, making sure someone who is lonely knows that we are thinking about them We do however need support ourselves. I know I do!

We have thought about these things together now for some time, this is the 30th Musing. I want us to remind ourselves that all the time, as always, the Hand of God is there, to guide us, support us, sustain us in whatever way it is meaningful to us. We heard on 'Songs of Praise' on Sunday of a lady who goes to church every Sunday but cannot bring herself to really to believe in God, yet she says she feels safe when she is there. The silent Hand of God !!!! Good to reflect on that perhaps. Reflecting on the fact that, going back to Jurgen Klopp, we should be ready to help each other.

Lewis, the schoolboy, is now happy and not overwhelmed by his new school, looking positively to the years ahead.