



1 March 2009

Dear Parishioners,

In his book “Soul Provider” Father Edward Beck quotes from a Hasidic Jewish Midrash which says:

To be fully human in the best sense of that word each of us should walk around with two pockets. In each of those pockets is a slip of paper. One of the slips of paper says, *For my sake this whole magnificent, amazing universe was created.* The other slip of paper says, *I am but dust and ashes.*

And Edward Beck comments:

Humility helps us locate the appropriate balance between these two extremes. Both hold truth, but the totality of truth is not found in either one. Our lives fall somewhere in between.

Lent is the time when, through the scriptures and our sacramental life, we are called to remember these “two pockets” and live not from extremes but within an “appropriate balance”. Too easily, our lives tend toward extremes and are thrown off-balance.

Life is one great balancing act. And Lent reminds us that it is Christ who helps bring about that necessary balance. And Christ does this when we learn two things: to see everything with ‘Gospel eyes’; and when with humility I empty myself so that, no longer full of self, I am more open to God and to the needs of others.

This Lent, let us be conscious of those two pockets, keep things in balance, and practice humility. In that way, we imitate Christ who emptied himself.

*Father Tim Clark*

Pastor