

My apologies for not getting a reflection out last week but we have been rather busy. If I could share with you my reflection, from my work with the police this week. A large part of it has been involved in the deaths of serving officers. I have been very privileged to work with police in their grief.

The reading this week concerns Jesus sending the apostles on mission. One of the officers who died was a young man who very much saw his work as an officer as a vocation. A man on a mission. This mission he had centred on two areas: the love of his life, Jess, who he found out just days before he died was with their first child. He was so proud, sharing this excitement with his friends and colleagues. I am sure he saw this as God's work; loving Jess and bringing new life into the world.

The second was his work as an officer. As I was preparing the funeral with Jess and his father David, I suggested we use the Beatitudes as a Gospel. I realised quickly there was some meaning to what I had said. I think they saw the look on my face, concerned that I had said the wrong thing without knowing. They very kindly said to me that on Aaron's shoulder and on his Dad's shoulder was a tattoo which said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called the sons of God." Their work as police officers was really the work of God, just as important as the chaplain. His work as a father with the love of Jess was the work of God. To me it's been a week, impressed very much by the police; that their work is really the work of God; just as is the work of the various lay vocations that go to make up the one Body of Christ.

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