



Thought for the Day by Father Robbie Low

As we stagger from tragedy to farce in the wake of the epidemic I thought it might be useful to share my ideas on the way forward for opening churches. Currently, as you know, we are at the back of the queue with dangerous trades like hairdressers. (While most of my confreres are impersonating the Wild Man of Borneo viewers will have noticed that my own luxurious mane has been visited by the Philip's Portable Sheep Shearing set – 7 grades - £30 on the internet). Hairdressers - and pubs and clubs to which we obviously bear a huge similarity. No Sacristy is complete without a dartboard and a set of optics.

My idea is a simple one. While you all watch on the Telly initially, I or Fr. Ciaran will assemble with the Servers in two teams of four. One team will hold the empty chalice and pass it around the sanctuary while the other team tackles them and hauls them to the carpet. While Lawrence is shielding the chalice with his body, Mick will put the boot in while Sophie and Paul lock arms and shove Bart and Kuba back, dislodging the chalice. In a heap of sweaty, dribbling, gobby bodies the winner will be the team who successfully carries the chalice into the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Their prize will be to receive Communion.

The reason that I am confident is that such a new approach to worship will get government approval is the news that contact sports have been given permission to resume. So, while it is now legal for thirty 15 stone+ men to land in a steamy brutal heap, discreet, genteel worshippers are still not permitted to pray in the Presence. Therefore if we could disguise Comm UNION as Rugby UNION then we are home and dry (albeit a bit

sweaty) surely. Who knows this new approach to the Sacrament may attract – the Holy Grail of Mission - ‘young people back to church’. I can understand the Government’s reluctance. After all they are following the science. Pentecostals may want to hug each other. Should we ban elderly people initially as they are more vulnerable? What about minorities? They are, apparently, more susceptible and an alarming number of them worship. Can you imagine an exclusion policy based on race or longevity?

Of course the disabling of the churches has nothing to do with the Government’s legislative priority to push through a vicious extension to the Abortion Law while we are shut down.

Anyway lads get your gumshields out and your jocks through the laundry – I look forward to seeing you on the pitch – or the Sanctuary as we used to call it.