



MEDITATIONS FOR LENT by Father Robbie Low

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT – THURSDAY Exodus 32

You couldn't make it up. Moses has gone into the mountain to receive, as it transpires, the Laws of God that will transform Man's perception and form the basis of monotheistic civilisations thereafter. He is the man who led them out of slavery. This is the God who saved them from the enslavement of the great pagan empire. No matter. Gratitude is short-lived in man. Moses has been away a long time and all that palaver at the Red Sea is a fading memory.

I know, let's reboot the whole programme and start again. Do you remember how happy we were in Egypt – long shifts, yes, and under the lash, true – but what about all those melons and cucumbers? No flipping manna and endless bally quails. Hey, Archbishop, let's have a decent god, one of those fantastic fertility things, so we can have a good party again.

And so the Archbishop, or in this case the High Priest, Aaron, Moses' brother, gets busy colluding with the zeitgeist, the vox pop, the prevailing emotional breeze turning into a gale. And manufactures a golden calf. So begins the first but far from the last outbreak of 'Mad Cow Disease' in the history of the Faith. The stupidity and forgetfulness and ingratitude of the people is depressing. But, I dare to suggest, not half as depressing as the speed with which the clergy forget their sacred task and loyalty in a Gadarene rush to seem 'in touch with the people, moving with the times, redefining 'god' in terms of base materialism, ready to lead as followers and collaborate with a lie as required.'

When your priests, of whatever rank and station, hold out against the current idolatry and disregard of revelation, encourage them. When they are tempted to acquiesce in the moral turpitude of revived paganism, remind them.

At the foot of the mountain of God lie still the two broken tablets that Moses shattered in his fury at the great betrayal. It was the same anger that led Jesus to cleanse the Temple of its materialist trappings.

Spiritual exercise: Identify any ways in which you or the Church compromise with the prevailing outbreak of Mad Cow Disease.