

A few words from the Vicarage ...



May I introduce to you the latest member of the Carey family? Courtesy of our son, Lewis and his wife, Sinéad, we are delighted to welcome Niamh into the clan! Niamh takes her place as she joins her big brothers Miles, Eli and Zach - we now all look forward to her first visit to the vicarage soon.

At time of writing, what is happening in Scotland , for me at least, has echoes of Psalm 69.8, which reads, *'I have become a stranger to my kindred, an alien to my mother's children.'* Indeed, it may also be applied to Jesus, of whom John wrote, *'He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.'* (John 1. 11).

Amongst others, we in the vicarage await the results of this referendum with a degree of trepidation - to see if the border between Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom will remain a mere line on the map; or whether it will take on a greater significance! In an age when so much more can be achieved united, it saddens me to even consider this separation to be a possibility.

National pride is one thing - I have bucketsful of that - but to take it to such an extreme seems to me to be quite bizarre. When I moved from my hometown, I saw it as simply moving to another area within my home country of the UK! Now I haven't even had the opportunity to have a say in determining the future of that home country, the UK, never mind Scotland. Yet anyone who has moved to Scotland from within the EU does have a say - why and how this was agreed is beyond me. Surely each UK resident, with a UK birth certificate, ought to have been consulted and given that right before non-UK born residents?

You may guess what my hope and prayer is for the outcome - and, by the time this article is being read, the result will be known. Hopefully I have not become *a stranger to my kindred!*

It is always tragic when people are displaced, or even if they only feel displaced - separated from their people or homeland. This has happened throughout the centuries whenever people are exiled, when they become refugees - indeed, we see it happening even now in various parts of the world, in situations far more serious and far more dangerous than this nonsensical referendum.

We are so very fortunate in this country and we ought to be thankful that we are.

To close on a happier note, September saw the welcome return of our choir along with the uniformed organisations. The Family Worship service also resumed on Thursday evenings - so we are all well and truly back into the swing of things after the summer recess.

God bless you,
your Vicar,
Fr D.