

## Re: Comment about leaflet distributed by the Cathedral

From Elias [REDACTED]

To [REDACTED]

CC PPC [REDACTED]

Date Friday, 25 October 2024 at 05:43

Thank you sister E [REDACTED]

I do not deserve your response and I am humbled by it.

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Sister C [REDACTED]

I will reproduce your chaotic message below this line and add a concise documentation of your errors in red colour:

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Dear Elias,

My brother - I can feel your distress radiating out of your email, and yes, the world out there is getting increasingly dark. But Jesus tells us not to be afraid; that he will be with us always, to the very end of time (Matthew 28:20).

You are right that our culture has gone too far; we are no longer living in a Christendom, and it is absolutely time for us, as God's People, to arise and get organised for Apostolic Mission. But in reality, this is no more of a challenge than it ever has been! (Imagine what the very Early Church must have felt like?!). That the Church exists at all defies all human logic and reason, and her existence is clear evidence of why we do not be afraid: God absolutely is in charge. I have been reminded of this on numerous occasions: "Fear not, and be not dismayed... for the battle is not yours but God's". (E.g. 2 Chronicles 20:15). **The weight of that responsibility lies on His shoulders, not ours** - all thanks be to God! (And as we heard on Sunday, our God is the God of the impossible...).

1. If you were hinting that we should be passive and sterile Christians while false teachers spread false teachings, you would be contradicting God's will. Without lengthening my comment, I briefly say that God wills us to "expose" such false teachers (Ephesians 5:11).

Jesus is our Light, shining in the darkness, showing us the way home... And how did he do it? He did it with love... **He hung out with the sinners (e.g. Matthew 9:10), and in his loving presence, their lives were transformed** (e.g. the woman in Luke 8:36-50). And his instruction to us is to love one another (e.g. John 13:34), and that there is no greater commandment than to love God with all our heart, soul and mind, and then to love our neighbour as ourselves (Matthew 22: 37-40).

2. Yes, but he did not encourage them to sin. Neither did he deceive them that it is "okay" to continue living in sin; but the complete opposite: He preached **repentance** to them.

To truly love someone includes to warn him of the reality of his sin and where it leads, not to deceive him that it is "alright" to continue sinning. I can give you countless testimonials of sinners who were addicted to despicable sins but repented after realising the gravity of their sinful condition (see for an example Courage [<https://couragerc.org/resources/#testimonies>]). On the other hand, there doesn't exist a single case of someone who was encouraged to sin and yet he repented in the end.

But the Pharisees did not understand this unconditional love of his (because **God's love is unconditional**). Jesus told them "If anyone hears my sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world" (John 12:47).

3. A) If you were using "God's unconditional love" as an excuse to continue living in sin or to turn a blind eye to others doing the same or even to encourage them, you would also be putting yourself in opposition to God's will. Scripture is clear for those who wish to learn God's will: "Do you presume upon the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not know that God's kindness is meant to lead you to **repentance**?" (Romans 2:4)

B) God's love is unconditional only in the sense that he died for us on the cross without prior conditions. God also grants his patience to sinners which is meant to lead them to repentance, but this does not mean he loves them per se.

Saint Thomas Aquinas explains that God loves sinners not as sinners but as His creatures. As long as they are sinners, "under this aspect, they are hated by Him" (Summa, Pt. 1, Q. 20:1). Psalm 5 confirms this when it says: "the Lord abhors deceitful men".

If **Jesus did not come to judge or condemn the world, then neither must we**. Our culture is far gone, but within that darkness, God's Church - a spiritual entity, no less - will be so much easier to see as it shines brightly in the darkness, a beacon of hope for all. The Christian Vision has much to offer the world; our prevailing culture does not. I can already see wonderful signs that God is doing something amazing in our City of Sheffield!

4. It was not our Lord's purpose from the first coming to enact an **eternal** judgement on the world. This is what he meant when he said: "I did not come to judge the world". Otherwise, how could he **temporally** judge the scribes and the Pharisees as "hypocrites" and "brood of vipers" and "evil and adulterous generation"? In this sense, we have every right to judge sin and preach repentance (**temporal** judgement). I mentioned this in my first letter to you in March.

God's love is unconditional, and every time a soul chooses to receive His love, it becomes transformed and made into a new creation. (Think of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, John 3:1-21). How could we ever tackle this darkness? Only God can do this - and He asks us to be collaborators of His Saving Plan.

We are indeed the hands and feet of the Lord - but only if we have Jesus as our Head, with His thoughts becoming our thoughts, His spirit becoming our spirit, and His love radiating out of us, for the benefit of those around us. He is the Light, after all.

We've been hearing from Galatians recently, where St Paul writes: 'it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me' (Galatians 2:20). Jesus also firmly reminds us that without him, we can do nothing ourselves: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5).

So let us pray for clarity of direction; what specifically is the Lord asking each of us to do? **Let us put down our own agendas and ways of doing things, and take up His Plan instead**. And let us take the aspects of the world that cause us the most pain, and sink them into prayer with our Mother Mary through the Holy Rosary...

5. Our church is plagued by a few woke modernists who have such a shallow and superficial understanding of Scripture, and yet, they ignorantly and conceitedly think too high of themselves. As far as I know, it is those people who have agendas, and it is them who project their own feelings and emotions on Scripture. Worst of all: They do it all in the name of

"Jesus" and "The Holy Spirit", about whom they demonstrably know very little.

In my opinion, it is easy to understand their agenda: They have only one law which puts the self and its desires above everything else. Such woke and selfish religion cannot be reconciled with the Gospel, and it is doomed to fail. "For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot" (Romans 8:7).

Christianity is not a subjective and sentimental religion. God declares such religion as corrupt: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). God does not want us to be selfish, but to deny ourselves for the sake of others; not to follow our feelings, but to follow his will using reason; to trust in Him, not in our own whims and desires:

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself" (Mark 8:34).

"And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:13)

Jesus has words of encouragement for us: "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." (Matthew 11: 28-30).

His Plan, His Way. Let us delight in being collaborators with Jesus, and watch as he radiates his Light and love through us to the world around us!

Your sister in Christ,

C [REDACTED]

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**On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council**

St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield

If you wish to be taken off the PPC mailing list, simply reply to this email with the word 'STOP'. Thank you.

6. Allow me finally to remind you of Christ's words:

"Whoever then relaxes **one of the least** of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:19)

"I tell you, on the day of judgement men will render account for **every careless word they utter**" (Matthew 12:36)

God Bless You All,

Elias.