

Reflection

The Feeding of the 5000 never ends

So far, this financial year, (so from April – August 2020) Erdington Foodbank has provided food on over 5000 occasions for adults alone. We have given food also for nearly 2,500 children. This is a staggering amount.

The miracle performed by Jesus on a hillside 2000 years ago continues. We were already a very busy foodbank, but the Covid-19 pandemic has made us even busier. And yet, week in week out we have food to give. Week in week out God provides.

Before every Erdington Foodbank session we pray and we always give thanks for the way that God has provided, once again.

God provides:

God provides through the supreme team effort that there has been across Birmingham with different church groups, charities, community organisations, Fareshare and Birmingham City Council working together and pooling resources. God provides through the donations of local churches and other faith-groups too, Rotary Clubs, groups of neighbours coming together and more besides.

God provides through corporate giving from companies like Tesco and Aldi.

God provides though the humble offering made by faithful individuals always bring even the smallest amount each week.

Therefore, we have never yet run out of food. God always provides one way or another. Just as Jesus was able to provide on the hillside using the 5 loaves and the 2 fishes.

So, thank you if you have been part of this effort.

The provision of the food has been part of it. In the same way that when Jesus provided on that day in Galilee, the food was important but his compassion for the people was equally important. Jesus was always providing healing and wholeness. With the foodbank, especially during the pandemic, it has been a blessing to get to know

the people who have found themselves having to come for help. Some individuals we have managed to help beyond their food needs. And in all instances we have tried to affirm people who feel so battered and bruised by their experiences and the changed circumstances that have brought them to this point.

The Feeding of the 5000 (plus women, plus children) is at its heart an act of love. In the same way, the work of Foodbanks such as ours, should always be an act of love.

Gerard.

Prayer

*We thank you God that you create all things.
We thank you God that you provide all things.*

*We thank you that in all times, in all places,
that you provide all that we need.
We thank you that you have created a world
where there is enough for everyone.*

*We thank you for the work of Foodbanks.
Forgive us that in a country of such wealth
and in a generation of such opportunity and
privilege, that in Erdington and so many
other places, people find they have to seek
out free food.*

*Please continue to provide for those who are
in need.*

*Please continue to help us work against a
system that is so riddled with injustice.*

*Give us all, today, our daily bread.
Amen.*