

The strongest of character traits!

In these days of celebrity worship and certain billionaires lauding themselves as being superior to the rest of us, humility can feel a rare quality. The authors of so many books in the Bible were of one accord, in teaching that idolatry was such an easy sin to fall foul of.

As we mark the Baptism of Jesus we recall afresh an antidote to the above. It is humility that is the order of the day! John the Baptist had acquired a large following and people were looking to him for their spiritual leadership. How tempting to develop his celebrity status. But no! His God given role was to introduce the saviour and he holds tight to that calling. Even though it will make it easier for his opponents to get him out of the way, as they did.

And then enters the one true son of the living God. And he too refuses to be idolised as he sets about his mission. Without sin, that needed symbolically washing away, he still insists on Baptism. Why? To be in solidarity with ordinary people, like you and I. Fame and fortune must have been tempting, but firmly resisted. One reputable dictionary speaks of humility as:

‘the quality of having a modest view of one's value or importance ‘

What a cracking definition! It's not about undermining oneself, but keeping a proper perspective.

Interestingly the Oxford English Dictionary estimates that the word humility occurs five times in every million written words. Hopefully that number will increase at some point, as humility is again seen as one of the most beautiful of character traits.

Go well.

