

# Amazing Grace: What can we do next?

## Three overlapping concrete suggestions for next steps from Professor Anthony Reddie

At the very end of the Coventry 2020 Amazing Grace session, Prof Anthony Reddie was kind enough to talk for a few minutes and gave a suggestion of three overlapping concrete things we could do to challenge racism. We thought they might be of benefit to you as well.<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Personal

- Start with the personal.
- By following Gandhi's example: 'We should be the change we want to see in the world,' we align ourselves with a strong model of discipleship
- Make practical action plans.
- Simple acts.
- Do not collude with conversations.
- (Make a pact with yourself 'to not allow someone else to say that racist comment uncontested or unchallenged.')

### 2. Systemic / Macro

- What can we do within our church structures to challenge the system?
- What can we do at places like Deanery, Diocesan or National Synods?
- What stories are brought to Synod? Whose stories aren't being heard?
- Encouraged to consider 'racism as a break in catholicity with the universal church'?

### 3. Intermediate

- Within our individual churches / chaplaincies / contexts, how inclusive or not inclusive are we?
- In our churches, who is advantaged? Who is disadvantaged?
- Whose stories are heard? Whose stories aren't being heard?
- Who does the service and ways of organising suit? Who does it not suit?
- For example, our ways of doing meetings are often very middle class (i.e., not to think of those on night shift or shift work when scheduling; or working in a very linear in process... what would happen if we worked in a more circular fashion and come back to things at the end?)

<sup>1</sup>This is a paraphrase from personal (Dwayne Engh) notes during the conversation, and therefore any errors are because of a misunderstanding of what he said or because of my own poor handwriting while taking notes. Apologies...