

27<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Greetings friends, I'm hoping to have a coffee and chat morning soon but just wanted to check how many of you have Zoom. I mean, there's not much point in organizing it if no one else is on the Zoom format is there? If you could just let me know if you are on or would be happy to sign up to it I'll fix a meeting and let you know. I thought we might just have a chat but also see what the thinking is about what kind of person we're looking for as our next Diocesan Bishop. There may be other things you'd like to talk about and I'd be happy to do that too, if we have time.

I conducted a funeral service yesterday and there were only three people in attendance, the brother and two sisters of the deceased. It was a very simple and relaxed occasion and the three of them chipped in during the Eulogy with bits and pieces they had forgotten when I spoke to them on the phone. It was all very natural and quite refreshing in a way. They were simply being themselves, without having to be sensitive to other mourners and I was glad that they felt comfortable enough to speak up. It was at once, both unusual and quite natural and left me feeling that we had given their brother the 'send off' that he would have wished. It's no wonder I love being a priest.

And finally...

A poodle and a collie are walking together when the poodle suddenly unloads on his friend. "My life is a mess," he says. "My owner is mean, my girlfriend ran away with a schnauzer, and I'm as jittery as a cat." "Why don't you go see a psychiatrist?" suggests the collie. "I can't," says the poodle. "I'm not allowed on the couch."

Tom

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