

2019-05-02 ... 8am Communion ... Revd Canon Judy Hunt

John 17: 20 – 26

Being “One”

I wonder what illustration would come to your mind when thinking about people becoming as ‘one’?

Maybe it would be the Boat race – watching wither boat and the co-ordinated rhythm and effort of all the rowers – and the cox’s role too ...

Maybe it would be a team in an operating theatre for a complex procedure ... the team absolutely focused and working together – but with very different roles ... and a lead surgeon ...

Maybe it would be an orchestra performing a great symphony – such different personalities, such different instruments – blending together to create wonderful music ...

Any of those – and many more – could help to reflect on Jesus’ words about being or becoming ‘one’ ... but we’d need to change the lead or co-ordinating role in each to being the work of Jesus.

Christian Unity is not just about getting on without arguing with each other ... it’s about unity of purpose, it’s sharing the same goals as Jesus and subordinating our own preferences and egos to his leadership.

This comes through in advice given centuries ago:

**All God requires of you is**

To seek, desire, will, endeavour but one thing, to wit:

that His will be done in and by you.

Do not concern yourself what

grace, virtue, prayer, presence of God,

success in your employment to His honour,

you have;

desire not to have anything, even of virtue,

but as far as it is His will to put it in you;

not to do anything

for His glory or the good of others,

but what He shall be pleased to do by you.

*(Fr Sabran S.J. to Mother Mary Herbert 1692)*

If each of us has this attitude – Jesus will draw us into unity – almost without us noticing!