

## XI Problems with discernment

For many people the need for perfection is a problem. If you are perfect it is very difficult to make the next step! Thankfully, we are gloriously imperfect! All we can do is take the next step. God beckons us into the next step, one step at a time. God nudges us.

Another problem allied to this is the desire to get it right and therefore we can be frozen into not doing anything in case we get it wrong. I have just read a very interesting book. 'The gospel of falling down' by Mark Townsend. The subtitle speaks for itself 'the beauty of failure, in an age of success.'

Maybe it helps to realise that a decision is not necessarily for ever. All we can do is make a particular decision at a particular time in a particular context. Discernment is not prophetic. Things may well change, in which case, we are presented with other choices. Of course, sometimes decisions have been taken many years in advance, long before they can be faced or before the time is right. For example, people discern a call into Ministry but are unable to pursue the call, for a variety of reasons, until later in life.

It can be very helpful to discern what you are really making a decision about and what is preventing you making a decision. What is getting in the way? In the final analysis discernment is about where your spiritual energy is. What is it that really brings you to life? Do you find yourself doing things that are not life giving? The New Testament in particular gives many indications that God is a God of life, not a God of death. 'I am the bread of life'. 'I am the resurrection and the life'. 'I am the way the truth and the life'. 'in him was life'. 'I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly'.

Where is your spiritual energy as you seek to become the person God wants you to be? God is always calling us to life and God wants the best for us.