

Something to think about: 27 March 2011

What's your language?

When the same idea or question tumbles toward you from a number of different directions all within 24 hours then it seems one is obliged to take notice. This past week I had that experience. In one situation, a childhood was remembered as not providing the language to enable articulation of things of a spiritual nature. In another, it was anger at the inability to talk about what really matters about being human on account of layers of 'church-speak'. In yet another, it was concern expressed for a generation of children who were not being exposed to language and concepts in which to express their interior life - ways to be in touch with the intangible, to a sense of a larger 'world'- to spirituality! And there were more... Thinking back over my life I wondered how it is that today I spend my time thinking and talking with others about these matters. I hold a deep sense of connectedness to everything else that makes up the earth: all its creatures and its mobile, changing, dynamic substance. I feel small in the face of such uncontrollable energy, but privileged interconnected. My family of origin were not church attendees or practitioners of any religious disciplines - they were not antagonistic just not practitioners. I think they took it all for granted and left it to others to do the going to church stuff. I did that bit, and loved the sounds and smell and feel of being in church. I learned early about metaphor and about the wonder of life - its fragility and yet marvelous capacity to survive and find hope. I hope that as adults and parents we help children retain their wonder at the world in which we live, and find the language to express their sense of marvel. How good it would be to share with others, without embarrassment, the excited yet frustrating feeling that we are just on the edge of knowing something that is 'beyond knowing' - or just beyond our current capacity to find the language to express it! Susan