Ministerial Region of the Good Shepherd Parish

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Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary time – Year C 30th and 31st August 2025



"God between us"

Rabbi Harold S. Kushner writes in his book Living a Life That Matters:

"I can't tell you how often as a rabbi, I would meet with family members before a funeral and one of them would say to me, 'Rabbi, we're not



religious. Do we have to observe the *shiva* memorial week and have all those people crowding our living room at a time like this?' And I would say to them, 'Yes, you have to do that, not for

God's sake but for yours, because you're going to feel alone and abandoned and you need to know that you are not alone. And you need to do it for your friends' sake as well. They feel your pain and want to take some of it on to themselves, to grieve with you.'

"That is why we make room in our lives for people who may sometimes disappoint or exasperate us. If we hold our friends to a standard of perfection, or if they do that to us, we will end up far lonelier than we want to be."

Martin Buber, the great Jewish philosopher and theologian, said that God is found in relationships. God is found not only in people but between people. "When you and I are truly attuned to each other," Rabbi Kushner writes, "God is filling the space between us so that we are connected, not separated. Both love and true friendship are more than a way of knowing that we matter to someone else: they are a way of mattering to the world; it is bringing God into a world that otherwise would be a vale selfishness and loneliness." May we realise the presence of God in the people we care about; may we experience God's love for us in the love we extend and receive from one another.