



Opportunities

BOOK

You may like to buy the book "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse". Charlie Mackesy has also recorded an [audio book](#) which is beautifully read.



WISDOM from SCIENCE

Listen to this wise [conversation](#) on science, vocation, story telling and epiphany with the Director of the Vatican Observatory, Guy Consolmagno.



WISDOM LITERATURE

Watch this [video](#) which gives an excellent, brief, simple illustrated explanation of wisdom literature in the Bible.



LENT IDEAS

Click [here](#) to find ideas for Lent starting on 22 February 2023.

Wisdom

Those of you who have access to BBC IPlayer may well have seen the half hour cartoon over Christmas called "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse". This is an animation of the book by the same name by Charlie Mackesy which has become a best seller. It has much wisdom which appeals to all generations.

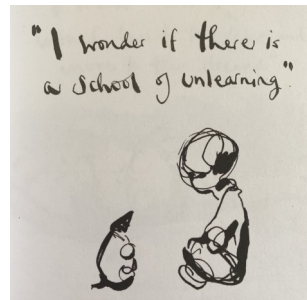
Wisdom, as shown in this book, is often quite simple but incredibly profound. As the lectionary gospel readings are taking us on a journey with Jesus this January, they are showing this everyday simple wisdom of Jesus as he begins his ministry:

- he said to his disciples "let's go somewhere else" when he was swamped by people.
- he arranges a boat to preach from so he doesn't get crushed by the crowd.
- he tells his family and accusers stories to try and help them understand him.
- he goes off for walks and prays outside away from the synagogue with its distractions and those who oppose him.

Jesus also uses animals to illustrate wisdom or speak of wisdom, e.g.

**"be wise as serpents
and innocent
as doves"**

There is so much we can learn from looking at the nature of God's creatures, the way they live and move.



Looking back over 2022, the decisions and judgments you made, I wonder if all would be classed as wise. If not, what went wrong? Are there behaviours and attitudes that need to be unlearned.

The following simple, wise prayer is prayed by many today:

**God, grant me
the serenity
to accept the things
I cannot change,
the courage to change
the things I can,
and the wisdom
to know the difference.**

(Attributed to
Reinhold Niebuhr)

At the end of the book wise words are said when the boy states "We have such a long way to go". And the horse replies "Yes, but look how far we've come." **YES!**

An Exercise

TAKING THE STORY DEEPER



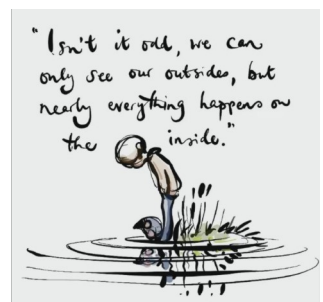
Watch this [video](#) which introduces "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse." Charlie says "there's a lot of space in the book for people to fill in..." The clips and questions below may help you do this.

Watch this [clip](#).

Where are you heading as you start this new year? How far have you come? Can you hold on to the fact that you are loved?

Watch this [clip](#).

What are you wary of? How do you react to different situations that come your way? What brave thing might God be calling you to?



Try to be honest - what's really happening for you "on the inside" right now? You may like to speak with God about this.