

Fifteen Minutes

It was Andy Warhol who came up with the idea that everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes. That seems even more true today than it was when this Eucharist was written. You may be able to identify Hear Say, Gareth Gates and Craig Phillips – try Google, if not. Benji Stanley, Elsa Hanaway and Jessie James were all murdered in Moss Side in the 1980s and 1990s. Forgotten by the media who devoured them at the time, they live on in the memories of folk who knew and loved them. They also live on in the influence they had on some of us who were around at the time.

In the Eucharist, we name the influence the death of a forgotten rebel has had upon those of us who have been touched by him.

Fifteen minutes
Three days
Six weeks

Fame

I'm gonna live forever

Fame
Celebrity

Celebrity Big Brother
Celebrity Love Island
Celebrity Stars in their Eyes
Pro-celebrity golf

Footballers' Wives

Famous
for being famous

Everyone's famous for fifteen minutes

Everyone's famous for fifteen minutes

Famous
for being famous

An heiress leaks a video onto the internet
A drug-addicted pop star whose music is forgotten
A crooked politician appears in pantomime

Famous
for being famous

Hear Say
Gareth Gates
Craig Phillips

Gone
but forgotten

Benji Stanley
Elsa Hanaway
Jessie James

Yesterday's headlines
Today's fish and chips

A revolutionary
A crowd
Two thieves

Fifteen minutes each

A revolutionary freed
then forgotten

A crowd namelessly
baying for blood

Two thieves mythically
naming the one
whose fame lives on
in crucified love
in resurrected hope
in dancing fools
meeting
around a table

Here
we remember

Here
we can never forget

Here
as long as there are bread and wine
are the body
and blood
of the one who lives forever

[Share bread and wine]

The bread and wine have been shared
Christ's body and blood are offered freely
to all
to each
Go from this place
and offer love
to all and to each
to rich and to poor
to black and to white
to pretty and to ugly

to young and to old
for it is love which lives
forever

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