I wonder if Matthew got it right. Were the Pharisees and Herodians trying to trap Jesus, or was it an honest question? Pharisees and Herodians were political opposites – like ACT and Mana. Pharisees opposed the Romans and so would not favour giving taxes to Rome; Herodians supported the Romans and paying taxes.

Paying taxes to Rome was a hot issue – what was Jesus’ opinion?

My son Aidan is a NZ citizen – fast-tracked to let him fence for NZ; also a UK citizen, born in Wales.
Dual nationality. Jesus’ answer is that we too are dual-nationals.
We owe Rome (Wellington) taxes for running country, but also as citizens of heaven we owe God his due.

Sometimes being dual-national is hard – if NZ plays Wales whom does Aidan support?

There are times when paying taxes seems to go against the grain of our allegiance to God. Eg support for action against Islamic State. In these cases I guess support of God is primary. Who would blame us if we occasionally got it wrong? As we acknowledge the difficulty may we also seek God’s Spirit for guidance.