

## Article for 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter

The isolation people are experiencing due to the Coronavirus at present can be likened to the many times people have felt isolated throughout the Old and New Testament especially now at Easter. Imagine how the Apostles must have felt when the man they had followed for 3 years and who they believed was the Son of God, died!

The fear we have of contracting the Virus can be contrasted to the fear the eleven felt in the Upper Room not knowing if within hours they too would be crucified. All their hopes and wonder at being in the presence of the Messiah were dashed in a single night. At the Passover Supper, they had been swept up in what Jesus was teaching them about serving others. Nothing had led them to believe their Teacher and Master was going to die the most repulsive death on the cross. Surely it must have been going through their minds if Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, he couldn't be killed and yet, there it was; approximately 18 hours after his arrest, Jesus was dead! – no more – buried in the sepulchre and everything they had known for the last three years was over. Would they have felt bereavement, doubt, incredulity, insecurity, terror, shock, awfulness, distress, panic, alarm? I am sure these would all be correct.

Often people suffering through this Pandemic will have felt all these feelings too. The people who overnight lost good jobs that paid for a good life- gone. Grandparents suddenly couldn't cuddle and kiss grandchildren. The normalities of life like having your hair cut, nails done, playing golf, going fishing, sitting and swimming on the beach, attending school with all your school mates to mention only a few. Wouldn't these changes to our normal lifestyle have created the same feelings in us; those of bereavement, doubt, incredulity, insecurity, terror, shock, awfulness, distress, panic, alarm?

The one thing we have as Christians that many in the wider community do not have is the hope that comes from knowing Easter Sunday and the Resurrection always comes after Good Friday.

With the Coronavirus, we know God is within us and around us and will never desert us. We don't need to be in a building to know this. God gives us the strength to cope with all situations we face in this life; He gives us the hope to know there will always be a light at the end of the tunnel; He gives us the ability to love our neighbours and seek to help others through difficult times.

He is giving us this solitude to build up our faith by reinforcing what we already believe and by consolidating what we may be unsure.

Modern technology provides us with the means to continue our presence at the Mass where we can take a spiritual Communion, TV, iPad, Streaming on computer or mobile.

A beautiful card was sent to me by the Divine Mercy Publications in Camberwell. Please feel free to use it at any time you stand in front of a statue or picture of Christ or Crucifix.

***My Jesus, My Lord, My God, I adore You. I place all my trust in You. I love You with all my heart. I cannot receive You in Holy Communion, but come into my soul in a spiritual way. Purify and sanctify it; make it a fitting tabernacle for Your Real Presence. Amen***

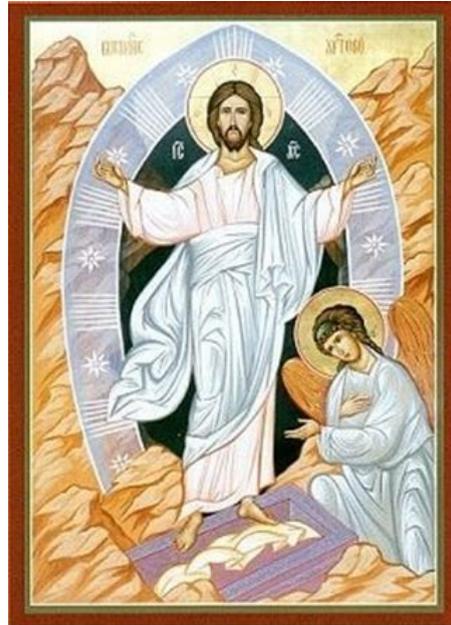
***O Sacrament Most Holy  
O Sacrament Divine  
All praise and all Thanksgiving  
Be every moment Thine.***

***My Jesus, I believe You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I know You have already come. I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.***

When life has returned to normal and we look back at this time, we will wonder how quick the time passed. Ask any parent whose child is now an adult. The answer is always the same: "It was only yesterday when he/she/they were toddlers."

May Our Lord bless you and keep you always in His care.  
May His light shine on you and give you his Peace, now and forever.  
Amen.

**Maureen**



from Queen of Peace Catholic store.