

Sermon

- ◆ **First Reading:** *Zechariah 9:9-10*
- ◆ **Second Reading:** *Romans 8:9,11-13*
- ◆ **Gospel:** *Matthew 11: 25-30*

Imagine this is our 1st gathering together since more or less the end of March this year ; I remember Wednesday evening, 25th March, we had to send home the children who were in prep for their 1st Holy Comm.,

...as they left us that night, my heart sank and I said to myself **WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO US ALL DURING THIS PANDEMIC/ LOCKDOWN????**

Needless to say an awful lot has happened since the end of March to this day, over 43.000 families have to deal with the loss of a loved one, the vast flow of humanity has taken a battering, unemployment & uncertainty are very real issues in the lives of millions of families & individuals all over the world.....is life still beautiful?, I suppose it is but very FRAGILE, that's for sure, our lives hang on a shoestring!!!...

I believe we are all still carrying with us a type of mysterious weariness, (or) a type of psychological DOWNER and we're not sure how to deal with it, this of course has a lot to do with the CORONAVIRUS and it's multiple consequences everywhere ;

Also the news we receive every day has an effect on us :

Over the past 4 months, has your Faith been a source of strength and comfort to you?.....people have said to me

“ye know father, without my Faith, I would find it far more difficult to deal with this Pandemic

2...while others have asked **WHERE IS GOD IN THE MIDST OF ALL THAT'S GOING ON PRESENTLY?**, a very valid question ;

There are no easy answers to what we are still going thru' presently, but our Faith will see us thru' another step of the way ;

The words of Jesus our Saviour are very comforting here in to-day's Gosp read. He says **COME TO ME ALL YOU WHO LABOUR AND ARE OVERBURDENED, I WILL GIVE YOU REST,**

REST FOR YOUR SOULS, YES, MY YOKE IS EASY AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT

when Jesus spoke those words most likely, He was observing the general flow of broken humanity; AT that time His own people were oppressed, weighed down by Roman Imperialism & heavy taxes ;

Right now there's a lot of brokenness out there, over 43.000 families here in the U.K. have lost a loved one, victims of that VIRUS ; therefore they are in a state of bereavement, then there's the bereavement of having lost your job ;

So when Our Lord says **COME TO ME ALL YOU WHO LABOUR AND ARE OVERBURDENED"**, he is offering spiritual comfort to all of us, He is offering spiritual strength to those who ask for it with Faith ;

The Lord-of-life is never far from human brokenness, wasn't He a broken man Himself as He was led to His Crucifixion in public?? Therefore Jesus is very much acquainted with the sufferings of the human condition ;

3.NOW that we are surrounded by uncertainty, and no-one knows where that virus is going to strike next, perhaps we could take Our Lord at His word by approaching Him with our Faith & prayer, ASK Him for spiritual comfort, ASK Him for the strength you need to see you thru' the trials of life ;
ASK WITH FAITH ;

Spiritual comfort means to enjoy the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life, but FIRST you & I have to invite the Spirit, as in **COME LORD JESUS, WE ARE ASKING YOU FOR YOUR PEACE & SPIRITUAL STRENGTH TO SEE US ALL THRU' THESE VIRUS TIMES ;**

THUS says the Lord **COME TO ME ALL YOU WHO LABOUR AND ARE OVERBURDENED, I WILL GIVE YOU REST, REST FOR YOUR SOULS.....**

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