

Sunday Reflection

- ◆ **First Reading:** *Acts 6:1-7*
- ◆ **Second Reading:** *1 Peter 2:4-9*
- ◆ **Gospel:** *John 14:1-12*

As I write these few lines the death toll due to the present Pandemic here in the U.K. now exceeds 30.000 ; when you receive the bad news on a daily basis, how do you react? Collectively are we now getting used to the “daily death toll announcement”?? : this death toll in the U.K. is the highest in Europe ;

And if for an urgent reason you wish to visit a loved one in hospital or in a care home, you have to follow the strict guidelines on distancing ; three weeks ago when I was called to anoint a patient in a local hospital, on entering the ward wearing my protective face mask, I was politely asked to remove it “sorry father, the mask you’r wearing is from outside, please use a hospital mask” :

There an’ then I was also given the PPE (personal protective equipment) ;

Afterwards the p.p.e. gear had to be discarded, and off I returned to the street with yet another face mask on me ; and while walking along enjoying lovely sunshine, I thought to myself “....why is human life so fragile?, why are we all so vulnerable?” ; Even healthy people could pick up some foreign germ or “something” while standing at a bus stop, with or without wearing ppe ;

The old saying is “LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL, BUT FRAGILE”, too true!, and if our lives here on earth are so fragile, then death is never far from any of us, for example, not all motorists bother to stop at zebra crossings to allow pedestrians cross the road, this can be deadly if you have already stepped onto the road, a second later BANG!!!, and that’s it, all over, again life is beautiful, but fragile!

No doubt over the past seven weeks, you and I have asked ourselves “.. what if I suddenly become the latest victim to the corona virus?” , “what if my breathing weakens so much to the point of death??, how will my loved ones cope with my death?, my family will be devastated.....etc..”

The times in which we are now living are menacing, unpredictable, strange, uncertain.....

Where did Jesus stand in relation to the reality of death and brutal uncertainty? In to-days gospel reading from st.John 14 ; 1 – 12, his death is approaching, the loyalty of his apostles is uncertain, he notices a sad atmosphere among them, as if, something serious is about to happen, now he has to encourage them with words of comfort and truth, he says to them

DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED, TRUST IN GOD STILL, AND TRUST IN ME. THERE ARE MANY ROOMS IN MY FATHER’S HOUSE, IF THERE WERE NOT, I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU. I AM GOING NOW TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU, AND AFTER I HAVE GONE AND PREPARED YOU A PLACE, I WILL RETURN TO TAKE YOU WITH ME; SO THAT WHERE I AM YOU MAY BE TOO....”

Do you get spiritual comfort from these words of the Saviour?, are they of spiritual value to you? Life and death are part of our earthly journey, we do not know the day, the hour nor the circumstances(...be careful when crossing the road!!, especially at that zebra crossing!!!....) ;

Perhaps on this fifth Sunday of Easter we could reflect on the purpose of our lives here on earth, how do you and I perceive the value of our LIFE??, is it really a gift of time, circumstances, opportunities, enjoyment and a lot more?(sorrows included) ;

Do I seriously perceive my allotted number of years in this world as a preparation time for THAT PLACE PREPARED FOR ME IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE WHERE THERE ARE MANY ROOMS??.....and if, by chance, I pick up this fatal virus, how would I deal with it in relation to the possibility of death?? Or is that too daunting to even think about?(...suit yourself!...) ; At some point during this Sunday, think and pray about HOPE IN THE LORD OF LIFE, His Spirit comes to us as a life giving force, ask and you will receive, ask for courage and perseverance in these present circumstances, don't hold back!!, tell him what's dragging you down, are you heart broken??....tell him!!

And during your sacred time spent with the lord, pray for those over 30.000 victims, who have left us, each of them was some mother's son/daughter, they had dreams of living longer, doing other things, travelling to other places and loving other people, now they are gone!, perhaps some died without having properly made their peace with God, now we can help them by praying for them ; offer up an extra decade of the Rosary during these days of the month of May, the month of our Lady ;

And our responsorial psalm is MAY YOUR LOVE BE UPON US, O LORD, AS WE PLACE ALL OUR HOPE IN YOU, say it 3 times at your next zebra crossing!

Stay Healthy!!

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