

Sunday Reflection

◆ **First Reading:** *Jeremiah 20: 10-13*

◆ **Second Reading:** *Romans 5:12-15*

◆ **Gospel:** *Matthew 10:26-33*

CAN YOU MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL?!, “all what?” how is it there are rules set in place during this Pandemic, but seemingly not everyone complies ; last Monday on the news we were all told “face covering is now compulsory on all public transport throughout the country” ; I’ve been on bus journeys all this week, noticing that some passengers boarded the bus without face covering, some drivers had face covering, others didn’t ; on the single decker buses only 10 passengers can board, enter by the front and fares are in operation ; on double decker buses, only 20 passengers can board, enter thru’ the middle door, and there’s no need to touch in nor out with the oyster card, free fares(...that’s as I write these lines, this arrangement may have already changed...) ; Then we have shops and take-aways, at the entrance to some you’ll see the sign “card payment only”, while others have “cash payment only” ; Then there’s the bargain hunters to deal with! When “Primark” reopened, the crowd couldn’t be contained, bargains took priority while the safe distancing rules were completely ignored!!, BEHOLD! the power of a bargain. Then we have the aviation industry also in a state of confusion, you can travel from the republic of Ireland to the U.K. and not go thru’ the 14 day quarantine, but if you travel to Ireland you’ll have to go into quarantine!! Spain has not put into place this same 14 day restriction, but is now threatening U.K. passengers travelling to their country(Spain!) with the quarantine rule unless the U.K. lifts the same rule ... then there’s the church issue, over 3 weeks ago cardinal Nichols complained to the government “How is it that Waterstone’s, the book store on Victoria street is allowed to open it’s doors so that people can go in and browse, while the cathedral on the same street has to remain closed??”.....got all that?, I haven’t!!!!

Isn't it difficult to work thru' all that's going on around us?, maybe even disheartening : The response to today's psalm is very appropriate **IN YOUR GREAT LOVE, ANSWER ME, O GOD** Taking in this entire scenario, it's as if, us humans left to ourselves are incapable to harmonize the flow of life with or without having to deal with a pandemic! "AH! SURE" says you "AREN'T WE DOING THE BEST WE CAN IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES?"

2. Yes!, you'r right!, but in the same circumstances, as the saying goes "a lot remains to be desired" ; the workings of the human body may be compared to the flow of life, if your body is knocked out-of-harmony thru' illness, bad news, an accident etc., then the disharmony has to be analysed and remedied ; your body has to be rested while the harmony is restored ; when things are out-of-harmony from inside, then our view of life looks distorted ; Presently the flow of life outside is out of harmony for obvious reasons ;

Over the past 3 months we've all taken an unharmonious battering whether we are aware of it or not and it's not over yet, especially health care workers, and how about parents of disabled children or children with particular needs, who have been side lined in all the disharmony? With so much anxiety, confusion and worry everywhere, we need to RE HARMONIZE our interior life, what would your approach be? what would you recommend? "EAT MORE ICE CREAM TO REMIND US OF BETTER DAYS!!!" Why not??

Seriously, as people of Faith, we need to, not only open the doors of our churches, but more so to open ourselves to the healing power of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Harmony, the Spirit of Guidance ; In the days ahead more than ever we'll be needing the power of the Spirit to harmonize our troubled world, a world in recession and uncertainty, many are in need of our prayers.

This weekend spare a thought and a prayer for the million-plus here in the U.K. who unfortunately didn't fit into the FURLOUGH scheme (details are a bit complicated to go into), these workers and self-employed are hard hit economically ; where can they get help?, and indeed many more besides ;

Lastly, let's get working on restoring our own inner harmony, our serenity;

There's a lovely serenity prayer that many people say when things are out of harmony, they pause, slow down, close their eyes and pray

GOD GRANT ME THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE, COURAGE TO CHANGE WHAT I CAN, AND WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

.....AMEN

Fr Kieran A. Fitzharris SVD