

Sermon for Easter 1 Low Sunday.

My Dear Friends,

Since I last wrote to you, tragically the Coronavirus has claimed several more thousand lives. Each one a tragedy of unimaginable proportions for those whose loved ones have passed, often alone and without the ability of being able to say their final farewells.

Such is the cruelty of this terrible virus which is causing so much misery across the world. And, the world is struggling to cope or make any real sense of the situation it now finds itself in. We are all trying to adjust and adapt to the reality of life under lock down, for some, possibly more easy than for others. But never the less, so called normal life as we know it, has mainly ceased for the vast majority.

For Christians at a time like this, it is good from time to time to look at the words of The Litany: - "from plague, pestilence, and famine, from battle and murder, and from sudden death, Good Lord deliver us."

We sometimes hear it said that today the language of the Litany is archaic and has little or even no meaning for people wrestling with the problems of our complex civilisation. Indeed, we hear very little reference at all from our politicians regarding the reassuring and comforting words from the Gospel Good News Message. The fact is that the Litany is as up to date as any of today's newspapers. So appropriate are some of Archbishop Cranmer's four - hundred – year old prayers that he might well have compiled them expressly for this Coronavirus epidemic.

The words, "from, plague, pestilence, and famine" might for most in the western world seem irrelevant, as in normal times sadly they are. However, it needs to be remembered in our daily prayers that before this terrible pandemic took hold, many parts of the world suffers daily from "pestilence, and famine" and for many nations in Africa in recent times the "plague" of Ebola and Sars were tragically endured.

For too many years the so called rationalists have been preaching of the gospel materialism, secularisation, liberalism, dreaming of a brave new world in which God and even the devil have no place. However, as Christianity has declined, so the terror of war and inequality have increased, with thousands displaced, homelessness and poverty rampant and more people dying from hunger, pestilence and tragically the world epidemic of Corvid 19.

Rationalism, has failed the vast majority of the worlds population, and when the real test of the so called new world order has been tested, it has not been able to provide either the reason or solutions. Politicians have been stumbling from day to day in a reactionary fashion which highlights for us all the complete failure of so called world leaders as they have embraced rationalism for decades with such catastrophic consequences.

"From sudden death, good Lord deliver us."

Keep safe.

In His Love

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