

PASTORAL LETTER 6th JANUARY 2021

A quote from one of my Christmas cards:

Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. Matthew 6: 34.

This should surely be our motto for what is happening now. What is the point of getting worked up about anything that we cannot change? At the moment everyone that I speak seems to be exercised about something to do with lockdown, and yet as I write this letter the whole of the UK is in the same boat. We have a shared experience, and the confusion caused by the differences across country borders has now gone, and consistency is the approach.

When I think about consistency I cannot but help think of Jesus, whose message was always the same 'love one another'. That's the message that we need to take forward with us into the beginning of this new, and potentially difficult, year. Getting worked up about what is happening will only frustrate us, maybe anger us, and generally upset us. If we focus on what God is saying to us we know that we will not be let down. We may not always understand, but we know that we are held safe in God's love. The problems always seem to happen when human beings think that they know better.

We are moving into a time of year when we know that the weather will almost certainly be at its worst, and staying at home will be the order of the day. Simple pleasures are really what start to matter. What simple pleasures have you experienced since the beginning of the new year? Here are mine – add your own to the list.

- It doesn't go dark as early as it used to
- The air feels fresh
- My cats stay at home instead of being out all day
- I can slouch around in comfortable clothes
- The mileage on my car increases very slowly
- There is a joy in an outing to the supermarket, having conversations with the staff

This list isn't exhaustive but hopefully it will get you thinking about some of the rich, good things in life. So let's think about our own personal glass of life being half full and not half empty. What are you thankful for? What makes you smile? What gives you a warm glow?

Heavenly Father,
we thank you for all that you offer to us: knowledge; skills; peace; calm. All things that we need right now. Guide us we pray as we negotiate these difficult and challenging times. Amen.

And finally, something to make you smile.....

So I'm alright if I'm catching mice but I'm not allowed to meet other cats?



Stay safe, every blessing,

Jacquié