

Dear friends,

Last week I spoke about how Jesus amidst the storm, was the only one who had power to calm the storm. This week the storm is still raging with the uncertainty created by the Coronavirus affecting every moment of our lives, calling us to change our 'normal' ways of acting, calling for a simpler lifestyle to help contain the spread of the virus, while at the same time making us ever more aware of our need to reach out to those who are struggling through this time of the pandemic. We know that it is through our changes to our behaviour that helps to save the lives of others.

As we have entered into the journey through Lent with Jesus, as he approaches these events of Holy Week, it is once again Jesus who maintains his composure through these days of chaos, when so many people betray, abandon and ultimately condemn him to death by crucifixion. Instead of recognising in his stance, a world which sought to know and understand the truth to which he came to bear witness, it readily adopted the violent behaviours of evil and sin against an innocent man. Evil and sin are engaged in a struggle for 'truth'. This struggle finds its climax in the Gospel of St John where Jesus stands before Pilate (the Roman governor) as they discuss the essence of 'truth'. In that truth, Jesus remains steadfast in doing the will of the Father, establishing His Kingdom of Love, while Pilate remains scared and frightened of the earthly and fragile kingdom of Caesar.

Amidst the storms, the chaos of our lives, and the struggle for truth, we find ourselves called upon to reflect upon changing our behaviour and attitudes. Are our behaviours based upon the fear generated by what others will think about us and the power they think they have over us? Do we, like Pilate, avoid the truth and remain condemned by our own inaction?

We now know that amidst the chaos and storms of life, that it is Jesus, who, by his suffering, death and resurrection, has shown the way forward out of all that can overwhelm and crush our spirit. These days of Holy Week culminating in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, speak to us as they did to the women who went to the tomb on Easter Sunday morning to discover that Jesus, once and for all time, had destroyed our greatest fear: death. By His resurrection, he offers us the promise and hope of eternal life.

I pray that this sacred time, when we can most fully experience what destroys life and gives hope, will be for us the realisation that, Jesus, the Son of God, became one like us in every way except sin, and that he alone can give life, and renew us as a 'new' creation formed as one people through giving his life for us. The words of St John clearly speak to us at this time of what remains central to our faith, which is the ultimate truth: 'For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life.' (Jn 3: 16-17).

May I wish you all a blessed and joy-filled Easter,

Fr Kelvin