

## Easter 2020

### Love is an action

I doubt that anyone can remember an Easter when their local parish church was not able to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, the most joyful of all Christian festivals.

The Covid-19 virus has brought about a crisis demanding a response more urgent than that demanded by two world wars. Even the aerial blitz of WW2 did not result in school closures, isolation of the elderly, and cancellation of all social and sporting events with the resulting financial hardships being experienced by so many, as at present. At the dawn of 2020 such a scenario was, even to those with foresight, unthinkable! It is humbling indeed to realise just how mankind can be brought so low, so quickly.

How should we, as Christians, respond to this worldwide crisis? Not, I pray, by stripping supermarket shelves bare; by stockpiling every imaginable commodity in order that **we** will not want for anything, nor by ignoring the advice of health experts and national leaders and continuing to socialise and party just as before.

I believe that the Christian response should be to demonstrate love and care towards those who are in need, to emulate the Good Samaritan who showed love and care for the injured stranger.

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The Christian response surely is to live and act in a way that minimises the risk of virus transmission to others. It is frustrating to be told that, just because my wife and I are over seventy years of age we must isolate ourselves from others for an indeterminate number of months, yet this advice is for our benefit, so we must swallow my pride, rein in our frustration and take all the necessary practical steps to keep ourselves free from infection in order that health service resources can be available for those in greatest need.

Supermarket shelf-stripping demonstrates the worst side of human nature and I deplore it. But the Covid-19 crisis has also brought out the better side of

human nature too. I have lost count of the number of neighbours and friends who have offered to do shopping for us and family members who have phoned regularly to see that we are OK.

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As the Pandemic tightens its grip on our country, I pray that everyone will pull together to bring this scourge under control, without such a united effort the outlook is bleak, to say the least.

Michael James