

Billy Derrykeighan

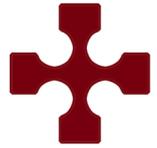
Rectory Ramblings

The lighter side of Lockdown

Let me share with you a Lockdown Psalm written by Professor Catherine Clarke and published in the Church Times.

1. I have dwelt long in the house of lockdown: I have enclosed myself in the habitation of Netflix and groaning.
2. They have set me my bounds which I shall not pass: I keep the statutes and observe the laws.
3. I entered into the supermarket, but it was barren: its plenty was turned into empty shelves and there was no toilet paper in it.
4. Neither were there delivery slots by day nor by night: verily, not even from Ocado.
5. Deliver us from the wilderness of delivery: and deliver our deliveries unto us.
6. The sun ariseth, and I go forth to work and to my labour: even in my pyjamas until the evening.
7. I am weary of Zoom, my throat is dry: it melteth away life wax as my broadband vanisheth.
8. They have sprayed markers for my feet: they have set a place for me on the pavement outside Tesco.
9. The unrighteousness forget their social distancing: I swerve from their transgressions.
10. A mask hath covered by face and I wash my hands: neither have I found any hand sanitizer to comfort me.
11. The pestilence layeth siege against me: according to the cleanness of my hands I shall be recompensed.

Amen



The office for National Statistics tells us that 47% of adults between 16 and 69 found lockdown a positive experience (the over 70's less so).

86% of the population want to continue with these lifestyle changes once lockdown is lifted. Less travel, working from home, not needing to rush out and about, more time for exercise, more time for prayer and reflection.

I know that many parishioners will not be with us from Sunday 5th July, when both churches can re-open for worship at the usual times. Many folk are cocooning, self-isolating and staying at home, so we will miss you from church. We will remember you in our congregational prayers and you will be with us in heart and soul.

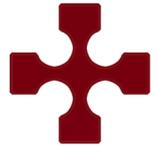
I intend to celebrate the first Holy Communion after lockdown on Sunday 19th July using all the hygiene precautions. Communion will be in one kind only and no-one will be coming up to kneel at the altar rail. For those who can't come out or are just fearful, then let me remind you about Spiritual Communion.

Archbishop Cranmer allowed for this in the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549.

Our current public health crisis does prevent us from congregating normally, so if you can't be at church, here are the words of the ancient rubric

If he steadfastly believe that Jesus Christ hast suffered death, upon the cross for him, and shed his blood for his redemption, earnestly remembering the benefits he hath thereby and giving him hearty thanks therefore : he doth eat and drink spiritually the body and blood of our saviour Christ profitably to his souls health, although he does not receive the sacrament with his mouth.

So, wherever you are this Sunday, and whatever you are doing, while this global crisis continues, may you know God's love, presence and peace. God chooses sacraments like Holy Communion to meet us, but he never said he would ONLY meet us there, he can meet us at home and we can ask the life our homes to be sanctified just as he himself grew up in an earthly home in Nazareth.



I hope we really have missed church and are hungry and thirsty to get back to being spiritually fed by word and sacrament on a Sunday.

The rituals and routine of worship is so important. Thanksgiving boosts our own mental health and sacred moments can help our sense of isolation.

A teacher at Harvard Divinity School Casper ter Kuile has just published a book called "The Power of Ritual". He says that ritual deepens connections "with yourself, with others, with the natural world and with the transcendent." To nourish our soul any activity needs intention, attention and repetition. These we can certainly find in the Book of Common Prayer.

Ter Kuile also recommends taking a "tech Sabbath" from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday, when we should switch off our TV, phone and all screens. Putting his preaching into practice, he has established the Corona Community Chorus on Zoom, uniting voices around the world by singing prayers. He feels that technology developed for the board room will now be used in churches.

As you may know, I broadcast on Facebook and Youtube, you can like at "Billy & Derrykeighan" and many of those who tune in are not churchgoers or don't even belong to the parish, but they want it to continue, so one of the lasting effects of lockdown might be a digital congregation as well as a physical one.

Our re-designed website is up and running, so do take a look.

We will have to be flexible as we come back to worship, and you MUST social distance and follow the public health guidance. That may mean wearing a mask, it certainly means washing your hands before coming to church.

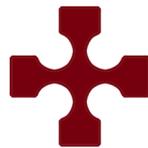
For the first 2 Sundays in July, I intend to have a said service of morning prayer and I will preach on the pandemic and how the church has faced plagues through 21 centuries of history.

For the last 2 Sundays in July, I want to tackle the issue of how we commemorate history with many statues and monuments being defaced and taken down over the world. The world is no less troubled after lockdown and the problems that existed before have only been compounded.

www.billy.connor.anglican.org
www.derrykeighan.connor.anglican.org



Flower List



NO FORMAL FLOWER ROTA OPERATING AT THE MOMENT.

SERVICES ARE TO BE SHORT AND WITH A SMALLER CONGREGATION.

IF YOU DO WANT TO PROVIDE FLOWERS, LEAVE THEM IN THE RECTORY PORCH ON A SATURDAY AND I WILL BRING THEM TO CHURCH. MAKE SURE YOU PUT YOUR NAME ON THEM SO I KNOW WHICH CHURCH THEY ARE FOR.

PLANNING AHEAD TO AUGUST. I HOPE TO START PREACHING THROUGH THE APOSTLES' CREED. I HAVE SPENT LOCKDOWN TAKING THE CREED APART WORD BY WORD AND I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY THE FRUITS OF MY LABOURS.

THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON WORSHIP ARE TO LAST UNTIL ALL SAINTS DAY, WHEN THE CHURCH OF IRELAND WILL REVIEW THE SITUATION BEARING IN MIND PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE.



Billys Holy Dusters

4 & 11 July

Patricia Dobbin & Jean McCook

18 & 25 July

Margaret & Lesley-Ann Matthews

1 & 8 Aug

Anna & Brian Brown

15 & 22 Aug

Jean & Elaine McCook

29 Aug

Evelyn Kane & Jean Ramage

www.billy.connor.anglican.org
www.derrykeighan.connor.anglican.org