

This week we celebrated the rather disturbing feast of Ascension Thursday. The point in the Gospel story when the Apostles are faced a harsh reality. That being a disciple of Jesus meant more than simply following the instructions of another.

That as they witnessed Christ Jesus ascend to the Father it becomes apparent that they must now take some responsibility.

That this new faith was not going to take them away from the world, but would immerse them in it.

That their relationship with the crucified and risen Christ, was not a free ticket away from responsibility, but a challenge and real opportunity to personally be involved.

They ran away

They were soon to be found hiding in Jerusalem.

Until the coming of the Holy Spirit and the miracle of the birth of the Church.

With Gods love we can do anything.

It disturbs me personally to listen to the Radio or TV and hear the Corona virus disaster spoken of in the past tense. As if the danger were over. As if things are back to normal. Before a vaccine has been developed. Or employment was at pre-lockdown levels.

Should we foolishly take this approach then we are creating a new crisis for the near future.

However it seems clear that we are emerging from one stage of this crisis.

Schools will re-open.

The roads are much busier.

People are being called out of furlough and back to the factory.

We are in this world.

We could choose to hide like the Apostles.

This next stage being an uncomfortable challenge.

We however are called by the Holy Spirit to take responsibility

When you leave your homes in the near future, it is not enough to twist the words of warning and subtly ignore social distancing, hand washing, the avoidance of congregating and having a chat.

We could then hide behind our failings

Proclaim that I am not to blame

Ignore forgiveness and the means of beginning again

It is love that is the reason you are called by God

It is love that is the means of our sanctification

And it is love that is the reason why we must each take responsibility, for the person we could still foolishly infect with the virus.

When you see the children in the near future, it is not enough to laugh at their innocence, and excuse the discipline that you must impose. They have lost a lot of school. The jobs of their parents are possibly now in danger. We each need the sensible support of the other. Practically, financially, emotionally.

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Ignore forgiveness and the means of beginning again

It is love that is the reason you are called by God

It is love that is the means of our sanctification

And it is love that is the reason we must each take responsibility, respect the others dignity, and act with selfless care.

What about me.

What is to happen to me.

When the children were small and the only money you had was in the coin section of your purse you survived.

When that person so close to you died, and each day was a battle against lethargy or panic. You came through and carry the scars of grief like so many other of life's warriors.

When it all went wrong

You came through

Soon you will again be called upon to believe in yourself, and to act. It is not enough to accept the consequences of fate as an excuse for giving up. Within the boundaries of the possible you are still the master of your own fate.

We could then hide behind our failings

Proclaim that I am not to blame

Ignore forgiveness and the means of beginning again

It is love that is the reason you are called by God

It is love that is the means of our sanctification

And it is love that is the reason why we must each take responsibility, for our very selves and the life we lead.

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Come Holy Spirit

Fill the hearts of the faithful

And enkindle in them

The fire of thy love