SPIRITUALITY IN THE TIME OF THE CORONA VIRUS

A Meditation by Fr. Greg Chisholm

“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.” (Dt. 18:18) “Without guidance from God law and order disappear, but God blesses everyone who obeys his Law.” Pv. 29:18:

The Corona Virus (COVID-19) is real; it will get worse before it gets better; but it will pass, as other plagues and dangerous life-threatening events in the past have come and gone. The question facing us as Christians, as a Church is : how are we going to deal with this in our daily lives, and what message of consolation are we going to give to our people in these times? Will we be a Church of prophets?

As a Church we are called to be, in the words of Pope Francis, “a Samaritan´s Inn”, or as he said in another context, a “field hospital” where the poor, the sick and suffering can find a listening ear and a compassionate heart. How do we listen during the Corona Virus Pandemic? How do we deal with the great temptations such as indifference, xenophobia, paralyzing fear, or hoarding? St Paul says: “You are Christ´s body, and individually parts of it…… If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy.” (1Co.12,26,27) Availability of hospital chaplain; visits to the schools; food banks for future quarantine victims, increased Share Life donations, prayer vigils, etc….

What will our response as a Parish be? This time is a favourable time for solidarity and consolation; let us not miss the spiritual opportunity that is so dramatically offered us! “Come to me, all who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest…and you will find rest for yourselves.” Mt. 11:28,29

We are called to be the hands, the feet, the voice of God among His people. Will we measure up to the challenge? As the trees in our Parish Foyer remind us, let us be “.. like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: it fears not the heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; in the year of the drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit.” (Jer. 17:8). In times of drought, in times of the Corona Virus, let us not show distress but a faithful and happy witness to concrete and loving solidarity with our brothers and sisters.