



CHAPLAINCY OF ALL SAINTS' MARSEILLE WITH AIX-EN-PROVENCE AND THE LUBERON

18th March 2020

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us in our prayers and reflections during these weeks when we cannot worship together in our churches.

A number of new resources are being published at the moment and we would like to share some of these with you. We will continue to post new ones on our website.

- 1 Clare Amos has compiled this set of reflections and prayers called 'Discipleship in difficult days':

<https://faithineurope.net/>

As some of you will remember, Clare's husband Alan was one of our locums during the recent vacancy in the chaplaincy. Her website will be updated at regular intervals, so do keep in touch with it.

- 2 The Church of England have published 'Worship at Home', a simple service of Morning and Night Prayer to say at home each day. A copy of this is now on our website, which you may like to read or print off. You can also read it [here](#).

- 3 A number of churches are also now livestreaming services. One is Canterbury Cathedral, whose Dean, Robert Willis, preached at our service on Ash Wednesday in Marseille. The Cathedral plan to livestream the following services each day at the following times (UK time):

12.00 noon Eucharist

3.15 pm Evensong (Saturday and Sunday)

5.30 pm Evensong (weekdays)

<https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/>

- 4 This reflection, written by a Franciscan friar, speaks in a profound way into the experience of lockdown:



Lockdown

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.



But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM, March 13th 2020

With prayers from all of us in the ministry team, and every blessing,

The Revd Jamie Johnston
Chaplain