

Reflection – Day 1

‘Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.’ (Psalm 23:4)

I suppose that many of you were like me, thinking at the start of the Covid-19 outbreak, that it was all a great fuss about nothing much, just another bout of flu, really. That is, until the last few days, when the utter seriousness of the situation has been well and truly brought home to us. Who has not seen the sights of great cities seemingly deserted, of the terrible accounts of sickness emerging from all over the world?

As we enter a new and sometimes frightening situation in our own country, I was reminded of the words of Psalm 23, probably still most people’s favourite. It serves to remind us that, whatever happens in our lives, God is in control and he has a plan for us: a plan which leads us to the opportunity to live in connexion with him and, after our earthly life, to enter into the closest possible friendship and relationship with him. He will never abandon us, no matter how grim things may appear, or even be.

Realistically, I cannot promise you that faith in God will protect you from harm in this world. I wish I could. However, I *can* promise you that God loves you eternally and has given his only Son for you. Jesus entered the world to offer himself as a sacrifice for you, so that your sins may be forgiven and that you may enter into eternal friendship with God!

As we progress into this strange new world of greatly reduced social contact, I promise you that God will always love and care

for you and that his Church will never give up on you. Trusting in that mighty love of God which has overcome even death itself, let us walk together on that journey which has been laid out for us.

Let us pray:

Almighty, ever-loving God, we entrust ourselves, our families, friends and all who we know, to your safe keeping. Guard and protect us and help us, through devotion to you and through caring for others, so come to know and to serve you, that we may at last enter into the courts of our heavenly home. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.