

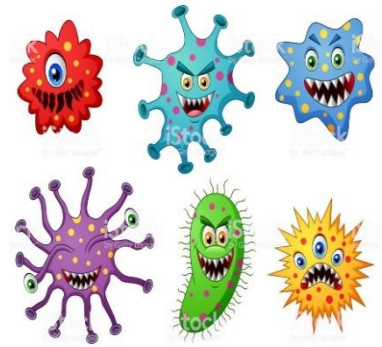


The Corona Chronicles

Reviewing the Church through a time of crisis

01.03.2020

Bishop Michael



Dear friends,

According to much of the press, we are “at war”. Our enemy is not some horned beast or foreign nation. It is a virus visible only under a microscope or in its impact on the human body. That *Covid 19* bug has changed the way most of us carry out our daily activities, limiting the amount of human contact and the communal gatherings normally a standard part of life.

That is the situation but what can we be doing in our down time? Lots of reading, reflecting and catching up on what is going on in pastoral theology. This, alongside working on keeping an eye on the oldies in my town, helping out with some community shopping trips, gardening and building up my firewood piles ready for winter.

My daughter suggested I do something like a Corona Chronicle, sharing some of my current musings. Her logic is very daughter to old father (her term) – if God cannot slow you down, perhaps the virus will.

Hence the attached documents. If you are not interested, then feel free to delete and ignore. However, I hope to be able to offer personal reflections on a range of topics of interest to me and ideas that have been raised by others.

There may be more, so please feel free to share your own suggestions. The idea is to encourage reflection, sharing and study. With a bit of luck, and a boost of grace, we might even stimulate some healthy discussion on where we might look to be moving as Church through this Corona challenge and rethink the way we can be Church to the world beyond the present.

One thing is clear. Some of the changes being forced upon us are likely to be permanent. We may even find some of our struggling parishes and centres are financially unable to come back and will close. We need to be pondering the present and the future and deal with what is likely to be the new reality. It will be a God-given opportunity and I hope some sharing of ideas will assist us in preparing for that in positive ways.

In Christ,

Bishop Michael