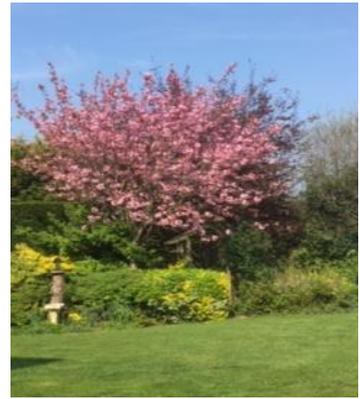


Holy Saturday:

John 2:18-22

The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy the temple, and in three days I will raise it up". The Jews then said, "This temple has been in construction for forty six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.



Yesterday, for the first time since the start of isolation, I felt very flat. It was a day structured as any other during this period, starting with the Daily Office at 8:30 and progressing from there. The sun was shining, the blossom was beautiful, and I am lucky enough to have my garden. I busied myself in setting up 16 Stations of the Cross in pictures around my garden which Roger and I walked through together at 2pm. Rather than being a period of self-indulgence, the walk proved to be very moving as we progressed from station to station through the final journey of Jesus Christ. What added to the occasion was the stillness: I live near a very busy road but at this moment in time it is less so. We could feel the gentle breeze on our faces, we could hear the birds singing and even our energetic puppy walked around with us, giving an occasional single bark, as much to ask what we were doing.

Was my sombre nature yesterday due to our present worldwide state caused by the Coronavirus or was it the fact that Jesus had died? This time of year over and over again, the scenes are recreated in churches up and down the country and all over the world?

The truth is that it was probably due to both; we are in an "in-between" time. Jesus has died and we are awaiting his Resurrection. It was when we finished the Stations of the Cross walk yesterday that the feeling came over me. For the rest of the day it seemed there was no movement and no hope, the world felt out of kilter and everything had stopped. That is much how we all feel at present in our situation of lockdown and isolation, our way of life has ended and we are in a waiting time before we can get it back again.

Be assured we will get it back again. Just as Jesus lay patiently and silently in his tomb putting his complete trust in God his Father as he waited for the time of Resurrection, so must we patiently wait and pray and put our trust in God to rescue us. To resurrect our lives from the tomb of fear that is the Coronavirus. In these times of isolation and silence, take the opportunity to be still and feel the presence of God, who is always with us, to comfort and lift us and give us hope for today and for the days to come.

One of the Collects set for today is very appropriate:

In the depths of our isolation we cry to you, Lord God:
Give light to our darkness and bring us out of the prison of our despair;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

My prayers are with you all.

God Bless you.

Reverend Irene