

We need one another

Michael Commane

Former Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks had an article titled 'Let's get ethical' in last week's issue of *The Tablet*. The piece includes these lines:

"We are made to compete, but we are also and equally made to cooperate. We need one another. We care about one another."

Maybe on a more whimsical note, in that same issue, Christopher Howse, assistant editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, writes: "Our behaviour would puzzle the angels, were they not so intelligent."

The two quotes are interesting, especially in these unprecedented times.

Some weeks ago I wrote my weekly INM Irish regional newspapers' column about the important role the individual has to play in ensuring the State cares for and looks after the common good.

When I was writing that column I had no idea where we would be today. I jokingly said at our 'last 07.30 Mass' on Monday that cycling about on my bicycle over the years I have fantasised about many things, including what I might like to do to some people in authority but I never visualised this.

And here we are, the entire world, in crisis.

I have often wondered what must it be like in times of war. When we see television footage from war-torn countries we are aghast and shocked.

What about the one billion people who never have enough food to eat?

I find the quote from Jonathan Sacks helpful. I'm greatly impressed with the goodwill and kindness that I have experienced during these last two weeks.

We all need one another.

There is a line from Psalm five of Morning Prayer tomorrow which reads: "To my words give ear, O Lord/give heed to my groaning./Attend to the sound of my cries,/my King and my God.

We are a fragile people.

Stay safe.

Rathgar Community Connect

is a group of local neighbours and volunteers who are here to lend a hand in this difficult time, when physical distancing is so vital to the health of all.

If you need help with your shopping, post, medicine, dog-walking, or anything else, or if you would like to volunteer, please call

Lynda at 087 4102727.

The Children's Lenten Programme has been cancelled due to the current crisis and in accordance with Government guidelines.

Divine Mercy Devotions for the First Friday in April have been cancelled.

Sunday and Monday Morning Coffee in St Patrick's Hall, are cancelled until further notice.

Christian Meditation on Thursday morning has been cancelled.

Church Collections During this difficult time, and in the absence of Sunday Mass, those parishioners who wish to continue to contribute to the parish in their usual way, may place the donation envelopes in the safe at the back of the Church. *Thank you*

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

In accordance with the Government guidelines during the current crisis, all are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass

There will be

NO SUNDAY OR WEEKDAY MASSES

Until further notice

but

the Church will remain open

from 9.00am to 6.00pm everyday

for personal prayer and visitation.

For those unable to attend Mass, a webcam showing live coverage of the Mass is available at:

Crumlinparish.ie

at the following times:

Saturday: 7.00pm;

Sunday: 9.30am; 11.00am; 12.30pm; 7.00pm.

Weekdays: 9.00am; 10.00am; 7.00pm.

As a community of faith, we need to take proper care of ourselves.

We must take care of each other's wellbeing.

We must take care not to spread viruses.

Be safe and well everyone

ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of Coronavirus. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

Daily Mass on RTÉ News Now

From Thursday 19th March at 10.30am, RTÉ News Now will relay Mass from St Columba's Cathedral, Letterkenny.

The channel is available on:

Saorview 21;

Sky 521;

VirginMedia 200 and

Eir 517