

# DE COLORES MAGAZINE

BRISBANE ARCHDIOCESE

*May/June 2020*

**Pentecost Edition**



***May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
remain with you for ever.***

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The last few months have seen significant changes to the way Cursillo and indeed our Church in our Archdiocese has operated. No longer are we physically attending Mass on a regular basis. Instead, for most of us, we are resorting to virtual Masses being streamed by our different Parishes or from various other places.

In this respect, we are able and are getting used to linking in with Masses from all parts of the globe. Reconciliation is not so easy and the meeting up with our friends in any way has proved challenging.

Many of the group reunions are taking place on line using such applications as Skype, Zoom, Facetime, Messenger or by phone. It isn't the same as meeting face to face but it is better than not meeting at all.

In fact, it has allowed some people to re-connect with the Movement who haven't been able to Group or attend the Ultreya for whatever reason.

Earlier this month, we had a virtual Ultreya run by the Redcliffe group and hosted by Michael Golden. Some 30 people joined in. It was different but it had all the essentials of a normal Ultreya apart from the ability to have a floating Group Reunion. The witness talk was excellent and the sharing that followed reflected the appreciation and support for Rien and Chris Duyvestan as the battle with Rien's illness.

Another virtual Ultreya will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> June and I encourage you to put this date and time in your calendar. More information and how to join in will be advised shortly.

We have also started having "email groups" adopting a format similar to what they are doing in the Canberra Diocese. Joe Jambour from Canberra provides weekly information and questions based on the Sunday Mass readings to Cursillistas in his area and they respond by email to each other.

We started this way but it has now turned into Zoom meetings and we share what the readings are saying to us and then reflecting on what has been happening to us in the past week.

We have two groups operating in this way and this has allowed a few people to experience grouping who have not done so for a long time. If there is anybody else who would like to join, please feel free to contact me at [mcmahop@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mcmahop@bigpond.net.au) or phone me on 0407 588 014.

On a personal note, it has allowed me to begin grouping again virtually with Fr Adrian, Yvonne, Wayne and Marjorie Wessels. This virus has forced us to think and do things differently. While not ideal, it does solve the problems of distance and time.

Some people do not like to go out at night and do not like travelling a great distance. Being able to stay at home, not have to get dressed up, putting on your comfortable slippers and relaxing in your own home as you share your week with your Cursillo friends does have a certain appeal.

Hopefully, in the near future things will return to some sort of normality. However, when they do, I hope we will hold on to those good things that have come out of our isolation period. For a lot of us, we have been more in touch with others through technology and I hope this continues. For me, I have received many meditations from different sources, have been able to do the daily Mass readings and reflections. I have also received and passed on many jokes that have made me laugh during this difficult time.

I think we have become more sensitive to the people around us and those in all parts of the world. We are part of God's creation and we need to look after the world we live in and the people who are suffering due to the ramifications of Covid-19.

May God keep us in His loving care.

**PETER MCMAHON**



~ *A Message from the Diocesan  
Spiritual Adviser* ~

This weekend we celebrated the great feast of Pentecost. Jesus followed through on his promise and the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the hearts of the apostles. The flame of faith burst into life. But it's what came after that that is truly awesome and inspiring. Through the words and deeds of the apostles, and with the constant help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, this flame of faith has continued to spread over the centuries. This has been God's intention.

The first reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians speaks of a variety of different gifts, the same Spirit, and a multitude of different ways to serve the one Lord. "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good," or as it is phrased in another translation, "for a good purpose."

The Holy Spirit is poured into our hearts for the common good. It is easy to see the good when we look. I constantly come across people who, often in challenging circumstances, are working in concert with the Spirit. Mind you, that's not what they say. When thanked they often respond with something like, "Anyone would do the same thing," or, "It's nothing special," or even, "Ah well, it's just my job, you know?" Now, they can say that they are just doing their job, but you can see it in

their eyes and hear it in their voice - the Holy Spirit is working in them, and they are co-working with that same Spirit.

However, as we are well aware, sometimes we live up to this good purpose, and at other times we fail spectacularly. The Spirit is still alive, the purpose is still good, but we just don't always bring it to fruition in our lives.

This brings us back to Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Many members make up the one body, and so it is with Christ. We drink of the one Spirit, no matter what our origins are. This is our calling. But again, we don't always act like this one body. Sometimes we are obsessed with destruction rather than construction and gossip rather than gentle, healing, and supportive words. In the midst of physical isolation and social distancing, our choice of words is more important than ever.

So what brings us back to the common good? What brings us back to acting like the one Body of Christ? The Spirit of fire, the Spirit of HOPE, ever present within us, given to us as another advocate, poured into our hearts. This Holy Spirit cries out to us to remind us of our good purpose and calls out to us to remind us that we need to get our act together and LIVE like the one body we are called to be.

**FR PETER GABLONSKI**



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**Proverbs 1:7**

**How then does a man gain the essence of wisdom? We cross the threshold of true knowledge when we live in complete awe and adoration of God. Stubborn know-it-alls will never stop to do this, for they scorn true wisdom and knowledge.— Proverbs 1:7**  
*(The Passion Translation)*

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## *From the National President*

I hope this finds you all well. We have had quite a time in the last couple of months, with many in isolation due to the coronavirus crisis. I hope those of you who have been isolated are not suffering psychologically as a result. I hope, too, that none of you is in serious financial distress as a result of loss of income in these very troubling times.

As practising Catholics and Cursillistas, I suspect that you, like me, are missing being able to go to Mass and receiving the sacraments. Hopefully, we will soon return to something approaching normality, although it will be on a different timeframe for each state. But the time away has turned my attention to other periods and places where Catholics were not able to access the sacraments but still kept the Faith alive.

In the early days of white settlement in Australia, Irish Catholic convicts were not only denied any opportunity to receive the sacraments, but were actually forced to attend Anglican services. I think we, who live in our very ecumenical post-Vatican II times, would find it difficult to imagine just how frustrating, demoralizing and insulting that was.

Even more interesting and quite incredible is the story of the Hidden Christians of Japan. I first came across their story in Marist Fr Paul Glynn's book, *A Song For Nagasaki*, although I am sure there are other reliable accounts.

St Francis Xavier, a Jesuit brought the Catholic Faith to Japan in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and it flourished there to the point where, early in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century there were over 200,000 adherents, a situation that so frightened the Japanese government that they outlawed Christianity in 1614. All the priests were either executed or driven out. This is the context in which St Paul Miki and Companions were martyred. The Church then was forced "underground" but survived for 250 years through seven generations of a number of

families who kept the Faith alive. Just imagine that! No clergy meant the only sacrament they had was Baptism. This weekend, as we celebrate Pentecost we might think with awe of the workings of the Holy Spirit in that situation.

So for 250 years they baptized their children, no doubt catechised them as best they could, prayed and waited for the reappearance of missionary priests, whom they knew they would recognize by three things: they would not be married, they would be obedient to "Papa-san" in Rome and they would have a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the course of time, priests came and they and the Hidden Christians found each other. Catholicism was eventually legalized in 1858 (an important year in Catholic memory, as it was the year Our Lady started to appear to St Bernadette at Lourdes). St Maximilian Kolbe spent some time as a missionary in Japan before returning to Europe and being martyred at Auschwitz.

So being denied the sacraments for a few months is something I guess we can live with, although I personally would have liked to see the Australian Bishops put up a bit of a fight. Apparently there were no Mass cancellations in Latvia, as the Latvian Bishops argued that the sacraments were essential services.

Nevertheless, I am sure it is not what Our Lord had in mind at the Last Supper when He instituted the Eucharist and told the Apostles to "do this in memory of me". So we will all breathe a sigh of relief when we can head back to our churches.

I trust in the meantime we will continue to use modern technology where possible to keep in touch, have Group Reunions and Ultreyas. Let us all continue to keep each other and our brothers and sisters in the Cursillo Movement overseas in our prayers.

**TERRIE**

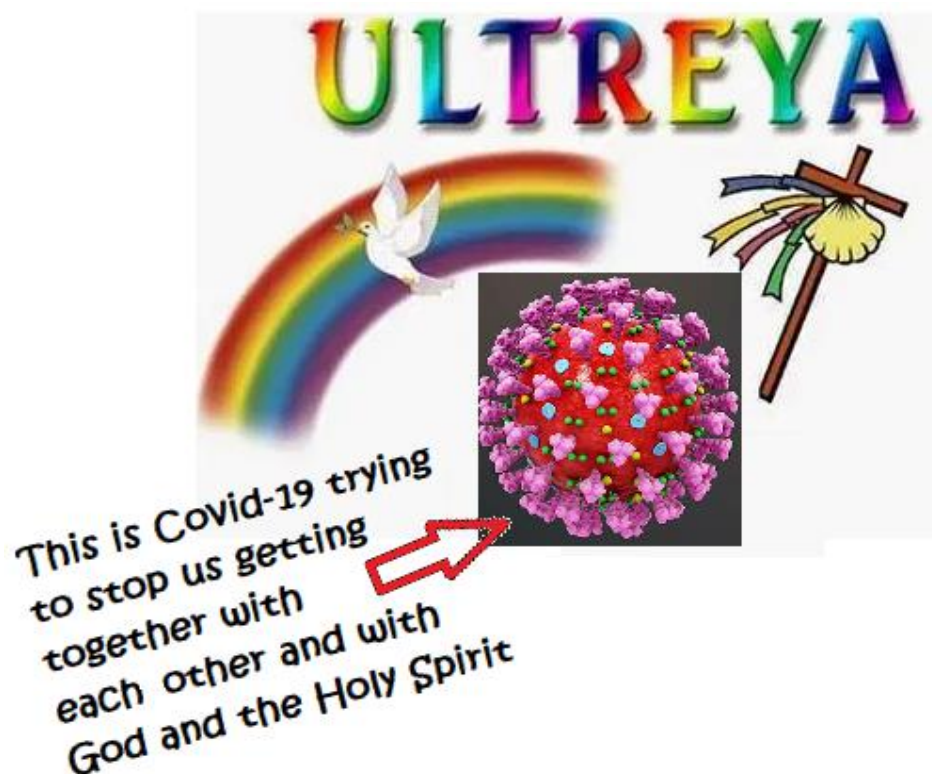


## OUR 2<sup>ND</sup> ZOOM ULTREYA

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### BRISBANE ARCHDIOCESE CURSILLO MOVEMENT

Let's not let Covid-19 stop us from  
being there for each other.  
Cursillo is based on friendship.  
Make a friend, be a friend,  
and bring that friend to Christ.



Christ doesn't believe  
in Social ⇔ Distancing

Keep an eye out for another email soon inviting you to join

this “Virtual Ultreya”

on Tuesday night, 9<sup>th</sup> June from 7.30 pm.

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## **Fellow Cursillistas,**

Our last Ultreya was held on Zoom with some 30 Cursillistas attending with their computers, iPads, phones or even their land lines at home. We have had many positive feedback comments. Some had to send in their apologies, for good reasons, as they could not join us that night, but hope to join us next time.

**Our next Ultreya will be again on Zoom and it will be on Tuesday night  
9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 starting at 7.30 pm.**

**SEE ADVERTISEMENT ON PREVIOUS PAGE**

Please make a note of this date and time but we will send more information further down the track.

Stay safe and peace to everyone.

Michael.

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### **COVID-19 ART**







**COVID-19 IS  
NOT GOD'S  
JUDGMENT,  
BUT A CALL  
TO LIVE  
DIFFERENTLY,  
POPE FRANCIS  
SAYS**

March 31, 2020  
By [Matt Emerick](#)

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World blessing: Pope Francis kisses a miraculous crucifix before giving his extraordinary blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world) in an empty St Peter’s Square on March 27. The blessing was livestreamed because of the coronavirus pandemic. Photo: CNS

The worldwide coronavirus pandemic is not God’s judgment on humanity, but God’s call on people to judge what was most important to them and resolve to act accordingly from now on, Pope Francis said.

Addressing God, the Pope said that “it is not the time of your judgment, but of our judgment: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others.”

Pope Francis offered his meditation on the meaning of the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for humanity on March 27 before raising a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament and giving an extraordinary blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world).

Popes usually give their blessing “urbi et orbi” only immediately after their election and on Christmas and Easter.

Pope Francis opened the service – in a rain-drenched, empty St. Peter’s Square – praying that the “almighty and merciful God” would see how people are suffering and give them comfort.

He asked to care for the sick and dying, for medical workers exhausted by caring for the sick and for political leaders who bear the burden of making decisions to protect their people.

The service included the reading of the Gospel of Mark’s account of Jesus calming the stormy sea.

“Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives,” the Pope said. “Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them.”



Like the disciples on the stormy Sea of Galilee, he said, “we will experience that, with him on board, there will be no shipwreck, because this is God’s strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things.”

The Gospel passage began, “When evening had come,” and the Pope said that with the pandemic and its sickness and death, and with the lockdowns and closures of schools and workplaces, it has felt like “for weeks now it has been evening.”

“Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void that stops everything as it passes by,” he said.

“We feel it in the air, we notice it in people’s gestures; their glances give them away. “We find ourselves afraid and lost.

“Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm.” However, the pandemic storm has made most people realise that “we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented,” the Pope said.

And it has shown how each person has a contribution to make, at least in comforting each other. “On this boat are all of us,” he said.

The pandemic, the Pope said, has exposed “our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities.”

In the midst of the storm, Pope Francis said, God is calling people to faith, which is not just believing God exists, but turning to him and trusting him.

As Lent and the pandemic go on, he said, God continues to call people to “convert” and “return to me with all your heart.”

It is a time to decide to live differently, live better, love more and care for others, he said, and every community is filled with people who can be role models – individuals, “who, even though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives.”

Pope Francis said the Holy Spirit could use the pandemic to “redeem, value and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people – often forgotten people – who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines,” but are serving others and making life possible during the pandemic.

The Pope listed “doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves.”

“How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility,” he said.

And “how many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer.”

“How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all.

“Prayer and quiet service: These are our victorious weapons.”

In the boat, when the disciples plead with Jesus to do something, Jesus responds, “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”

“Lord, your word this evening strikes us and regards us, all of us,” the Pope said.

“In this world that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything.

“Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things and be lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet.

“We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick.

“Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: ‘Wake up, Lord!’”

The Lord is calling on people to “put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be foundering,” the Pope said.

“The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith.

“We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love.”

Pope Francis told people watching around the world that he would “entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, health of the people, and star of the stormy sea.”

“May God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace,” he said.

“Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak, and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm.”

Introducing the formal blessing, Cardinal Angelo Comastri, archpriest of St Peter’s Basilica, announced that it would include a plenary indulgence “in the form established by the church” to everyone watching on television or internet or listening by radio.

An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven.

Catholics following the pope’s blessing could receive the indulgence if they had “a spirit detached from sin,” promised to go to confession and receive the Eucharist as soon as possible and said a prayer for the Pope’s intentions.

**CNS**

## From the Editor

I hope the content in this edition will help inspire you to continually try to enhance your relationship with our God and saviour Jesus Christ. I hope also that the De Colores Newsletter helps you in your spiritual journey and to spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

### ARTICLES FOR FUTURE DE COLORES NEWSLETTERS

If you feel so inclined, all articles of interest are most welcome for inclusion in future De Colores Newsletters. Please email any contributions to [lout.home@gmail.com](mailto:lout.home@gmail.com)

May you all be blessed by Our Lord Jesus Christ throughout 2018 and beyond.

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### PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR RECOVERING

Please continue to pray for all those people who are sick or recovering. We also pray for our own family and friends suffering illness and difficulties in life at this time.

### PRAYERS ARE ALSO ASKED FOR THE DECEASED

Please pray for those Cursillistas who have died since our last newsletter. Also please pray for their families.

### OTHERS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

For all those affected by the conflicts which are occurring throughout the world.

We must continually keep each other in our prayers, and especially when we celebrate Eucharist

In God we trust

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### THE BOTTLE OF WINE

For all of us who are married, were married, wish you were married, or wish you weren't married, this is something to smile about the next time you see a bottle of wine:

Sally was driving home from one of her business trip in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road.

As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride.

With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car.

Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally.

'What in bag?' asked the old woman.

Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, 'It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband.'

The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said:

'Good trade...

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**EVANGELISATION BRISBANE CONNECT**  
**WELCOME TO THE 2020 JUNE EDITION**

If there's one thing that's clear from this strange season, it's that humanity cannot live by Zoom alone! Though there have been many excellent initiatives from around the Archdiocese to support and engage the faithful online, there remains a great hunger for the body of Christ, both in the Eucharist, but also and in the form of the faithful gathered together around the Eucharist. In the coming months, our challenge is how to re-engage and re-connect our communities. Some people are waiting impatiently for the day they can return, but others have grown accustomed to weekends at home without Mass, and will need some encouragement to be drawn back. In this, how we welcome the faithful back is crucial, as those first experiences back at Church can have a significant impression and impact future engagement. The staggered opening with limited numbers will provide an opportunity for priests and parish staff to connect personally with everyone who attends and re-build those relationships.

In this month's Evangelisation Brisbane Connect are again a number of resources available. I draw your attention to our Pentecost Children's Program which is designed to support parents with primary school children. It is a 10 minute program of song, scripture and activity that children can watch at home.

On this Pentecost, may the Holy Spirit move amongst us, inspire us, and empower us to 'go and announce the gospel of the Lord.'

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter', with a stylized, flowing script.

Peter and the team at Evangelisation Brisbane

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## Reflection:

### Australian Catholic Cursillo Movement

#### How do we fall in love?

I was particularly struck by some words from Richard Rohr in his book "The Naked Now", 'Authentic love is of one piece. How you love anything is how you love everything.' (p127) What particularly struck me about this was it strikes me as being at the heart of the Gospel for this weekend. Those whose sins that are forgiven are forgiven, those that are retained are retained. This constant challenge is presented to us in the Our Father. How we seek to love God is how we seek to love our neighbour as ourselves. This seems to be the non-negotiable element of the Christian faith. We are to be present to that authentic gift of the spirit which enables us to be lovable and loving.

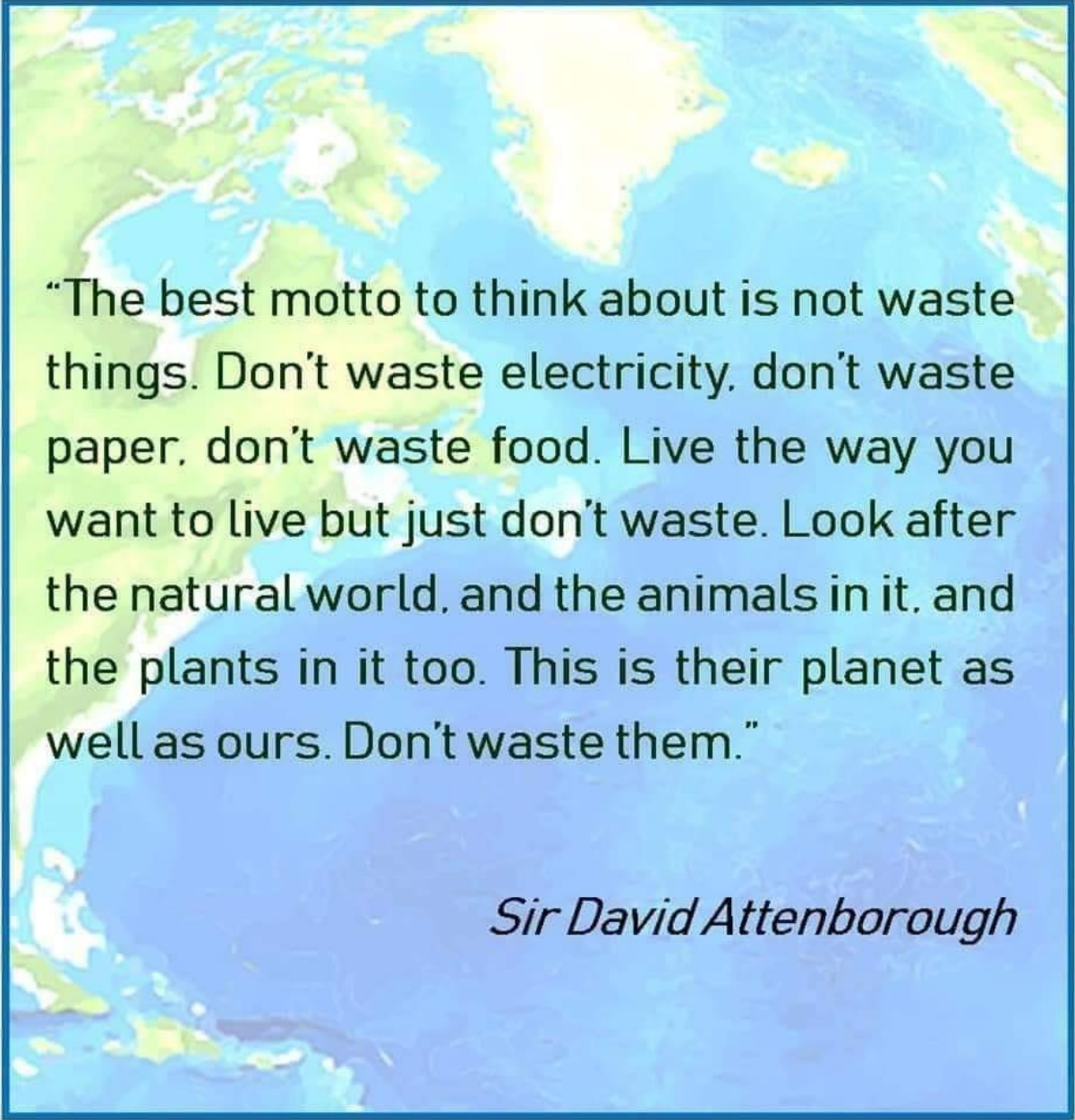
So how do we enable this encounter in our daily lives? There is often a sense in which the Holy Spirit is considered a mysterious force than an encounter with a person. It is this ambivalent nature that causes us to relate more easily to a God who makes the rules or to a God who shows us how to live them out. It is much easier to see God as Father or God as Son. These two persons of the Trinity help us to understand images from our own life and upbringing. We live as a parent or as a child. Often we are conscious of how many of our relationships are grounded in these essential relationships. Yet the Holy Spirit allows us to encounter God on equal terms where God dwells deep within us.

This encounter with the person of the Holy Spirit helps us to see how we have been gifted for the good of ourselves and the good of others. We are entrusted with a loving presence which allows us to be attentive and aware of who we are for others. This loving presence helps us to notice what brings life to our world and how we can be ever creative in the present moment. By becoming alert to what brings life to us and to others we notice how our world changes and is transformed. No longer do we seek to possess life but rather we surrender to life. This remarkable change enables us the freedom to be ourselves rather than some counterfeit image shaped by distorted seeking after love outside us. Once we recognise that we are both lovable and capable of loving our world changes and we become our true self. A person formed in the image and likeness of God.

¡DE COLORES!

Fr. John Armstrong

"The intellectual quest is exquisite, like pearls and coral. But it is not the same as the spiritual quest. The spiritual quest is on another level altogether. Spiritual wine has a subtler taste. The intellect and the senses investigate cause and effect. The spiritual seeker surrenders to wonder." (Rumi Wisdom; trans. Timothy Freke)



“The best motto to think about is not waste things. Don’t waste electricity, don’t waste paper, don’t waste food. Live the way you want to live but just don’t waste. Look after the natural world, and the animals in it, and the plants in it too. This is their planet as well as ours. Don’t waste them.”

*Sir David Attenborough*

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## COVID-19

Heard a Dr. on TV saying in this time of Coronavirus staying at home we should focus on inner peace. To achieve this we should always finish things we start and we all could use more calm in our lives.

I looked through my house to find things I'd started and hadn't finished, so I finished off a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Chardonnay, a bottle of Baileys, a bottle of wum, the remainder of Valiumun scriptuns, and a box of chocletz. Yu haf no idr how fablus I feel rite now.