

# CLONGUISH PARISH NEWSLETTER

May 17th. 2020

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## A Time of Spiritual Re-awakening

Fr John Harris O P writes

This present situation has been seen only as a health crisis and that is ok for the health professionals, but for us believers such a response is inadequate. For us who accept Jesus as our Lord this is also a moment of spiritual re-awakening. To look at this virus spiritually is to see it as a call to conversion, both personally and as a church. For us believers, we must endeavor to hear the voice of God in the silence, in the lack of entertainment and the lack of distraction. **This can also be for us a spiritual and religious moment. A moment for us all to reflect on the place of God in our lives.**

Now, that we have the time to discover our families and our neighbours.

We can also reconnect in a new way with God. I must accept it as a time of grace. God is not absent. If we have the ears to hear and the hearts to believe. We have to live beyond the secular and the voices of secularism. God is not in the thunder and the rocks splitting, as we have discovered in the story of the Prophet Elijah but in the simple silent breeze. It is a voice of great power who orders Elijah back to mission and not to feel sorry for himself. It is a silent call to action, to true conversion.

## Poet John F Deane (A poem for these times)

Now I sit, cocooned and quarantined, stare  
at the fire dying in the stove;  
I will let the summer moon rise high  
above the poplars

And the bats go whizzing by  
between the house and outhouse.  
There is disorder everywhere in the world,  
disorder in the blood, mourning

in the deserted streets and down the twisting  
mayflower-crowded country lanes.  
At sunset names of the dead are called  
aloud and we see

their well- loved faces. Our covenant with cosmos  
is under strain, forcing the heart into  
original vulnerability, to seek

beyond the plate -glass walls of commerce  
for something blessed and vital we have lost  
while creations fire burns on  
and the days lighten.

## Assertiveness

A man went on an assertiveness course at work, and as a result he decided that things needed to change at home. When he got home, he told his wife: "I want supper on the table each evening when I get home from work. After that I want you to run the bath and have it at the right temperature. I want my running gear freshly laundered. And in the morning, do you know who's going to button my shirt and fix my tie?" "Yes" replied his wife. "The undertaker."

Lead thou me on!  
Keep thou my feet; I do not wish to see the distant scene  
One step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou should'st lead me on.  
I loved to choose and see my path; but now,  
Lead thou me on.  
I love the garish day, and spite of fears, Pride ruled my will.  
Remember not past years

So long thy power hath blessed me, sure it still will lead me on  
O're moor and fen, O're crag and torrent, till the night is gone.  
And with the morn those angel faces smile,  
Which I have loved long since,  
And lost a while.

### **Check Point**

An elderly man is stopped by Gardai around **2.00am** and asked where he is going at this hour of the night.

The man replies: "***I'm going to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late***"

The Garda officer asks: "*Really? And who might I ask is giving that lecture at this hour of the night?*"

The old man replied "***That would be my wife***"

### **Lead Kindly Light**

Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom;  
Lead thou me on!  
The night is dark, and I am far from home;