

CLONGUISH PARISH NEWSLETTER

MAY 3RD. 2020

Fr. Ciaran McGovern. Tel: 043-3346805

Website: www.clonguishparish.ie / eMail: clonguishparish@gmail.com

Is God Angry with us?

Whenever there is a local or a global catastrophe, whether it is the fire that destroyed the roof of Notre Dame (Paris) or the spread of Aids there are always some Christians who say that it has been sent as a punishment by God for various contemporary sins. This reveals a belief in God as a kind of extra-powerful figure ruling the universe, a chief executive figure who tolerates bad behavior up to a point, but then his patience snaps and he stops the nonsense, sending a tsunami or a pandemic to remind us who is boss.

God, as a vengeful tyrant is a neat if frightening solution to the deep pain in our lives: our suffering has come from somewhere, and perhaps it is understandable that some seek the explanation that it is sent directly by God.

But there is a huge difference between God permitting evil in our world and God perpetrating such acts upon us. The **Church teaches that because God wants us to be fully free, our world holds the possibility of our choosing evil; if it were otherwise, we would all be robots** This is a world away from God directly causing suffering and destruction.

Just because some people grow through suffering and pain, it does not mean God has sent these things as a test: rather this growth is a testament to God accompanying us through every moment, inspiring us to be in solidarity with all God's children, so that together we make the best decisions in the shadow of death and in the valley of tears.

Fr Richard Leonard SJ in the Tablet.

Queen of the May

Bring flowers of the rarest, Bring blossoms the fairest.
From garden and woodland and hillside and dale;
Our full hearts are swelling, our glad voices telling
The praise of the loveliest flower of the vale.

Chorus

**O Mary we crown the with blossoms today!
Queen of the angels and queen of the May.
O Mary we crown the with blossoms today,
Queen of the angels and queen of the May.**

Our voices ascending, In harmony blending,
Oh, thus may our hearts turn Dear Mother, to thee
Oh, thus shall we prove thee, how truly we love thee.
How dark without Mary, would life's journey be.

O Virgin most tender, our homage we render,
The love and protection, sweet Mother, to win.
In danger defend us, in sorrow befriend us
And shield our hearts from contagion and sin.

Oh Mother, the dearest, Oh, wilt thou be nearest,
When life with temptation is darkly replete.
Forsake us, O never, our hearts be they ever,
As pure as the lilies we lay at thy feet.

Fr Sydney MacEwan