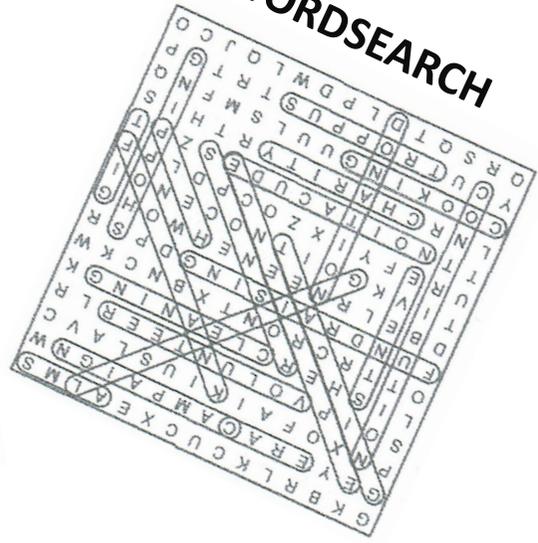


1. Australia
2. Manila, Philippines
3. The Nightingale
4. We'll Meet Again, by Dame Vera Lynn
5. Captain Sir Tom Moore
6. Wuhan
7. Locusts
8. 8pm on Thursdays
9. Simon Cowell
10. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex
11. A statue of slave trader Edward Colston
12. Marcus Rashford
13. Lewis Hamilton
14. Barnard Castle
15. Elon Musk
16. Tokyo
17. Priti Patel
18. "Year of the Nurse and Midwife"
19. 366
20. Liverpool

CRISS CROSS

- TO THE RIGHT: 1 Portent 2 Ton 3 Carol 4 Tic 5 Seminar 6 Relic 7 Hob 9 Tar 11 Lupin 12 Nadir 15 Mat 17 Oiled 18 Rated 19 Mar 21 Transit 22 Saveloy 24 Eyrie 27 Nervy 28 Sew 30 Rot 32 Rue 34 Ran.
- TO THE LEFT: 2 Tot 3 Coral 4 Tantrum 5 Sir 6 Reconnoitre 7 Hem 8 Solid 10 Bin 13 Latin 14 Camaraderie 16 Pat 18 Risen 20 Rat 23 Reserve 25 Ayr 26 Enrol 29 Delay 31 Sit 33 Rut 35 Won.

WORDSEARCH



SOMETIMES YOU NEED COFFEE JUST TO GET TO THE COFFEE.

I read that, by law, you have to turn on your headlights when it's raining in Sweden. How am I supposed to know if it's raining in Sweden?

Connected



January 2021 Issue 13



"There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind"
C.S.Lewis

**These words were placed on the notice board where we live
(To be sung to Schiller's Ode to Joy)**

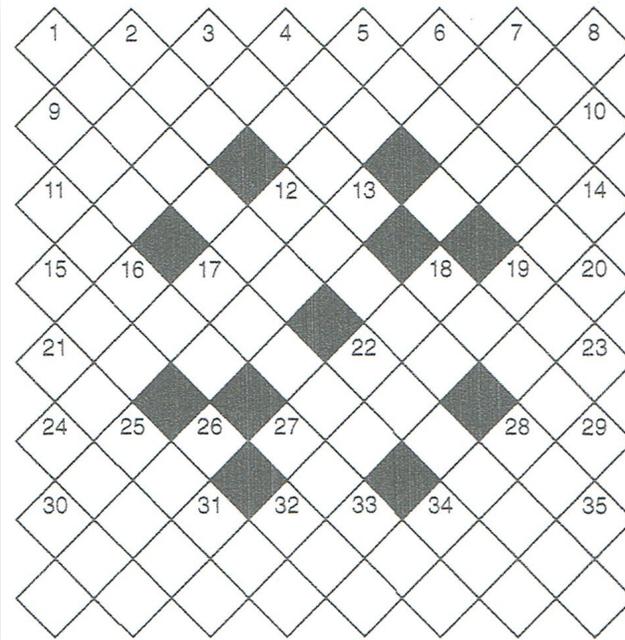
(the last movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony)

*Here we are in isolation
Being told to stay at home
Waiting in anticipation
Till we're free once more to roam
Now we wait for vaccination
We are told it won't be long
Greeting it with jubilation
Until then we'll all stay strong
I can't wait until the day
That I can meet with friends for tea
Then we'll meet with jubilation
To celebrate the we are FREE*

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GOOD ADVICE



TO THE RIGHT

- 1 Omen
- 2 20 cwt
- 3 Christmas hymn
- 4 Nervous spasm
- 5 Discussion group
- 6 Historical artefact
- 7 Cooker top
- 9 Bitumen
- 11 Plant with tall spiky flowers
- 12 Lowest point
- 15 Rug
- 17 Lubricated
- 18 Assessed
- 19 Spoil
- 21 Act of carrying
- 22 Chip-shop sausage
- 24 Eagle's nest
- 27 On edge
- 28 Use needle and thread
- 30 Decay
- 32 Regret
- 34 Sprinted

TO THE LEFT

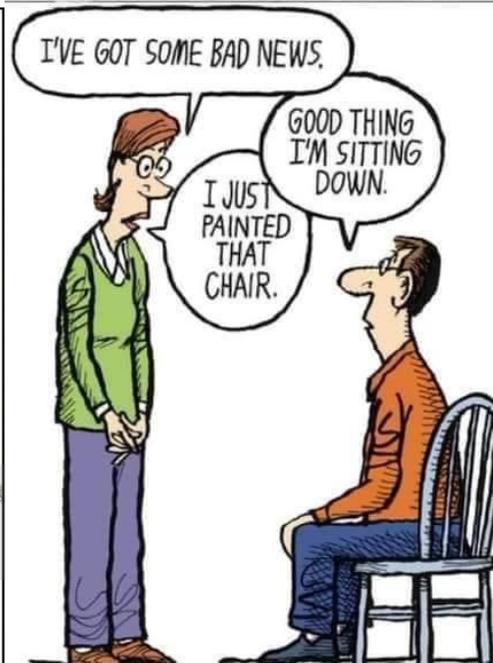
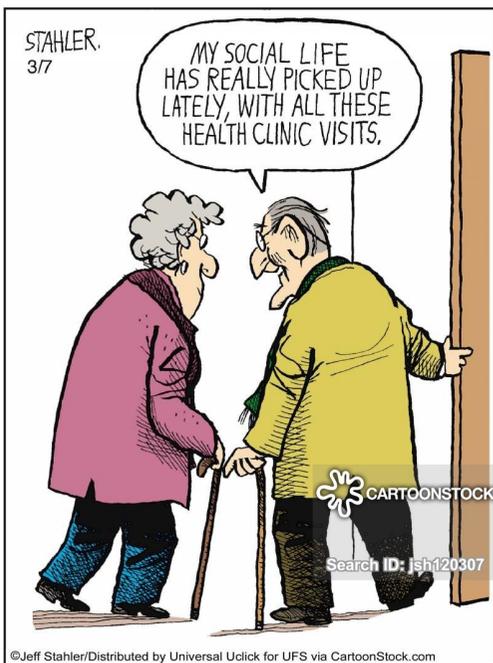
- 2 Measure of whisky
- 3 Reef substance
- 4 Fit of temper
- 5 Knight's title
- 6 Check the lay of the land
- 7 Garment edge
- 8 Sturdy and firm
- 10 Rubbish container
- 13 Caesar's language
- 14 Friendship
- 16 Hit gently
- 18 Gone higher
- 20 Deserter
- 23 Book a seat in advance
- 25 Scottish racecourse town
- 26 Sign on
- 29 Hold up
- 31 Take a pew
- 33 Cart track
- 35 Was victorious

CRISS CROSS



Every solution is entered diagonally, either to the left or to the right, from the square indicating its clue-number

A huge "Thank You" to those who have given items for the magazine - these are always welcome. If you have any feedback or would like to discuss any of the Content in "Connected" 01234 212919 or 07720260213 se.grant@btinternet.com



What Does Love Mean?

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, 'What does love mean?' The answers they got were broader, deeper, and more profound than anyone could have ever imagined!

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore... So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.' Rebecca - age 8

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.' Billy - age 4

'Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.' Karl - age 5

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.' Chrissy - age 6

'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.' Tern - age 4

'Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.' Danny - age 8

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and just listen.' Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.' Nikka - age 6

(we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

'Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day.' Noelle - age 7

The doctor went way out into the country to deliver a baby. It was so far out, there was no electricity, and when the doctor arrived, no one was home except for the labouring mother and her five year old son.

The doctor asked the little lad to hold a lantern high so he could see, while he helped the woman deliver the baby.

The mother pushed and after a little while, the doctor lifted the new born baby by the feet and spanked him on the bottom to get him to take his first breath.

The doctor then asked the little lad what he thought of his new brother.

"Hit him again," the he said.

"He shouldn't have crawled up there in the first place!"



What does love mean? (cont'd)

'Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.' Tommy - age 6

'During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore.' Cindy - age 8

'My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.' Clare - age 6

'Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.'
Elaine - age 5

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.' Chris - age 7

'Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.' Mary Ann - age 4

'I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.' Lauren - age 4

'When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.' (what an image!) Karen - age 7

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy on the toilet and she doesn't think it's gross...' Mark - age 6

'You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.' Jessica - age 8

The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbour was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbour, the little boy said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry.'

Now, take 60 seconds, think, and then be a child again today!

Bread and Butter Pudding

Ingredients

8 slices of White Bread
75g Butter, (softened)
Grated Nutmeg
150g Caster Sugar
(plus 4tbsp for sprinkling)
4 large Egg Yolks
300ml Double Cream
300ml Whole Milk
1 tsp Vanilla Extract
100g Mixed Dried Fruit

A Great Sunday Treat



Cut the crusts off the bread. Put the bread on a tray, cover with a clean tea towel and leave for 3-4 hours until slightly dried, (Partly drying the bread helps it absorb the custard.)

Spread one side of each slice of bread with softened butter and sprinkle with a generous grating of nutmeg. Keep 4 slices of bread whole and cut the remaining 4 into triangles. To make the custard, whisk the sugar, egg yolks and whole eggs together in a large bowl until smooth. Whisk in the cream, milk and vanilla extract.

Butter a 1.75 litre ovenproof dish - a lasagne dish is ideal. Line the dish with the whole slices of bread in one layer, butter side up, and scatter over three-quarters of the mixed dried fruit. Arrange the triangles on top, butter-side up and almost standing vertically. Sprinkle the remaining fruit between the triangles as you go.

Give the custard a stir, then pour it slowly over the bread. The bread will float, so press it down gently for a few seconds to help it absorb the custard. Leave to stand for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 180°C/Gas 4.

Place the dish in a roasting tin. Pour in enough just-boiled water to come halfway up the sides of the dish. Bake for 30 minutes or until the custard is just set and the bread is golden brown and crisp on top. Carefully remove the tin from the oven and lift out the pudding. Serve hot with custard, cream or good vanilla ice cream.

Enough is Enough! (Cont'd)

Does this sound impractical and impossible? Too good to be true? Are all our problems solved in a flash? No, but God can bring an inner calm to replace panic, clarity of mind instead of confusion, inspiring alternatives where once there was only a brick wall. Turning to him in times of distress does not remove all the problems, but it gives us an unexplainable sense of being cared for. An awareness of his presence makes all the difference. With him the unfaceable becomes faceable, the unbearable becomes bearable.

And we can't get enough of that!



This amazing photograph is of Arisaig, a beautiful setting found on the west coast of the Scottish Highlands. This place is special to Isabel and myself as it was here that we spent our honeymoon 52 years ago.

We had planned to go there again last October, and had booked a lodge to spend just a few days in this peaceful setting, but sadly due to the travel restriction imposed on us due to Covid we had to cancel our plans. This quote, was found on Facebook just a couple of days ago, attached to this beautiful photograph.

“You will find peace not by trying to escape your problems, but by confronting them courageously. You will find peace not in denial, but in victory.”

WORDSEARCH

“Helping Those in Need”



ALMS
CAMPAIGN
CARE
CHARITY
CLEANING
CONTRIBUTION
COOKING

DONATION
EDUCATION
EVENTS
EXPERIENCE
FOOD BANK
FUNDRAISING
GIFT

HELP
LISTENING
SHOPPING
SPONSOR
SUPPORT
TEACHING
VOLUNTEER

We Didn't Know!



'Sit down this instant!' shouted the English teacher as he swept into the room. 'And don't ever let me see you stand when I enter.'

The class was mystified. It was a new school year and they knew the rule that applied to all forms, bar the lower and upper sixth: when a teacher enters a classroom all pupils stand to attention by their desks and stop talking.

Yet here was an order from a teacher in direct conflict with the long-standing policy of the school. However, they obeyed. Only on rare occasions, out of habit, did anyone stand when he arrived. A carefully aimed blackboard rubber thrown at speed cured most forgetfulness!

It was a couple of years later, when the teacher's son started attending the school, that the reason for his outbursts became clear. He had been captured by the Japanese during the Second World War. Whenever a high-ranking Japanese officer visited the POW camp the whole British company, regardless of weakness or sickness, had to stand as a mark of respect until the officer had left. This, according to the son's report, sometimes lasted hours. Apparently the teacher had privately vowed that he would make sure no one would ever be forced to stand on his account.

We know so little of other people's pasts, the difficulties they have encountered and the problems they have overcome. We would probably be humbled if we knew. Past experiences always have some effect on our current thinking, perception and behaviour, for better or worse. A child given encouragement and affirmation may develop a sense of self-esteem and confidence; whilst an abused child may find trusting people difficult, even as an adult. The good news of the gospel is that God can redeem hard experiences. Painful



Enough is Enough!

He struggled through the swing doors and joined the small, silent queue. He took in his surroundings and muttered to no one in particular, 'I've had enough!'

Nobody moved a muscle. Some were staring blankly; others were soberly studying their feet. A few minutes later he repeated himself as the wheezing and sickly procession shuffled forward. 'I've had enough you know, I've had enough.' This time his comments were acknowledged with a grimace and raised eyebrows from two women.

He took this as his cue to explain his situation, not just to those queuing at the receptionist's window, but to the assembled assortment of humanity waiting in the clinic. He complained that he had been sent from pillar to post, from nurse to doctor to outpatients and back to the nurse, and frankly, he'd had enough!

Sometimes life feels like that. One thing after another, until we think we can no longer cope. We've had enough. If we were Popeye the Sailor Man, who was frequently under pressure from one source or another, we'd be saying, 'That's all I can stand. I can't stand no more!' and, reaching for a conveniently placed tin of spinach, find superhuman strength to deal decisively with the difficulties. But as rich in iron as spinach is, it's not great for solving many problems.

The New Testament letter-writer James is aware of enough being enough, and writes:

But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed... And if, in the process, any of you does not know how to meet any particular problem he has only to ask God - who gives generously to all men without making them feel foolish or guilty - and he may be quite sure that the necessary wisdom will be given him.

(James 1:4-5, JBP)



Story with a Moral.....

One story that has had remarkably powerful affect on me, when it comes to the power of learning from mistakes, is one read recently. It involves three men building on each other's blunders until someone finds the perfect way to resolve a difficult problem - the conclusion is not only 100-percent right, it's also hilarious! This story not only has a strong moral, but is also so funny, no one will ever forget it.,.

Oscar Wilde once eloquently said, "Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes" - and boy, was he right!

Making mistakes is human nature. We all make them, But sometimes we have a hard time admitting when we've messed up big time, which is a shame, because mistakes have the power to turn you into something better than you were before.

Yet, sometimes you don't have to make an epic error on your own to benefit from it. Often times we see or hear stories of other people's slip-ups and we can learn not to follow to do the same. Or, at the very least, improve upon their half-baked decisions.



Three men were hiking when they came upon a large, raging, violent river. "Needing to get to the other side, the first man prayed: 'God, please give me the strength to cross the river.' Poof!!! God gave him big arms and strong legs. And he was able to swim across in just two hours, though he almost drowned twice! After seeing that, the second man prayed: 'God, please give me strength and the tools to cross the river. Poof!!! God gave him a kayak and strong arms and strong legs. And he was able to row across the river in about an hour, though he almost fell in! Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man prayed: 'God, please give me the strength, the tools, and the intelligence to cross the river' He was turned into a woman! She then checked the map, hiked one hundred yards upstream and walked across the bridge."

We Didn't Know (cont'd)

memories may linger, but God can help us learn from them and empathise with others who are going through difficult times.

He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us.

(2 Corinthians 1:4, The Message)

What can we use from our past experiences, mistakes or successes that can help someone today?

THE MUM TEST

A mum was out walking with her 5 year old daughter who picked up something off the ground and started to put it in her mouth. The mum took the item away from her and asked her not to do that. "Why?" the daughter asked. "Because it's been on the ground, and you don't know where it's been. It's dirty, and probably has germs," the mum replied. At this point, the daughter looked at the mom with total admiration and asked, "Mum how do you know all this stuff. You are so smart." The mum was thinking quickly, "All mums know this stuff. It's on the Mum Test. You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Mum." They walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but the daughter was evidently pondering this new information. "Oh ... I get it!" she beamed, "So if you don't pass the mum test you have to become a dad." "Exactly," the mum replied back with a big smile on my face.

*When you finish laughing
SHARE this to a mum!!*



We Need Solidarity

A good friend on mine wrote these words and shared them on the internet. I was so challenged that I asked her if I could print them in our newsletter. Lesley wrote:

I have mentioned before that I once worked for the homeless charity Emmaus, which provides accommodation and meaningful work to "companions" within its social enterprise. Part of this work is meant to teach the importance of showing solidarity to those less fortunate.

Once a month the companions would collectively donate some money to another charity, and donate second-hand furniture from its shops to families in need and also send a large container full of bric-a-brac, clothes and furniture to Emmaus communities in Romania.

This was done because just after the war the charity's founder, Abbe Pierre, a French clergyman, once said to a man named Georges, "You, who thought you were superfluous, who thought there was no place for you in society, not only are you not superfluous, you are needed.

And so those who were beggars became givers". Georges became the first companion and, like all other companions in the Emmaus communities, he learned that we help ourselves when we help others.

Being in a new lockdown has made me think a lot about the word solidarity. It reminds us that we are "all in this together". We are all in this third lockdown together, we are at one with our neighbours. It also calls us to strengthen community and promote a just society and we, as Christians, should be at the forefront of this effort.

St John Paul II said, "Solidarity is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all."

And to quote another Pope, Francis, "Solidarity is a word that means much more than some acts of sporadic generosity... it is also to fight against the structural causes of poverty, inequality, lack of work, land and housing, the denial of social and labour rights. It is to confront the destructive effects of the empire of money: forced displacements, painful emigrations, the traffic of persons, drugs, war, violence and all those realities that many of you suffer and that we are all called to transform. Solidarity, understood in its deepest sense, 

And God Created.....?

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

So God agreed.....

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty Long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog?"

And God agreed.....

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a Life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed again.....

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your Life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God. "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the Last ten years, we sit on our balconies and bark at everyone.

A Little Light Relief

A curate's wife had just returned from a visit to the sales with a smart two-piece outfit. Her husband remonstrated with her, saying that on his salary they could not afford it. She replied that she appreciated the fact, but it had been a bargain and she had been tempted. 'In that case,' said her husband, 'you should have said "Get thee behind me Satan"'. 'Oh, but I did,' said his wife, 'and that was when Satan said "It's a perfect fit at the back Madam"'.

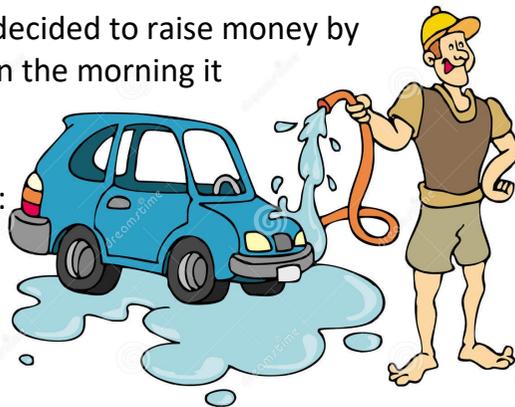


Notice in a church porch: 'Churchyard maintenance is becoming increasingly difficult, and it will be appreciated if parishioners will cut the grass around their own graves.'

The young people in a church decided to raise money by having a car wash. However, on the morning it was to be held, it was pouring with rain. The vicar saved the day by putting up a sign saying:

**God's Co-operative
Car Wash**

We Wash - He Rinses
It was a great success.



For those in peril: Before the baptism the organist was playing softly as a voluntary the hymn 'Eternal Father, strong to save'. Suddenly the vicar said: 'Tell Ted we're here to baptise - not drown them'.

A Grace: 'Lord, make me not like porridge, stiff and difficult to stir; but like cornflakes, ready and quick to serve.'

We Need Solidarity (cont'd)

is a way of making history." Each of us is part of the human family. We are all interconnected and interdependent.

The Bible teaches us to love our neighbours.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25: 35-40)

We are called to love each other. It's not enough to profess our faith and pray. Our faith should translate into concrete acts, to be of service to others.

Mother Theresa said, *"God is pleased by every act of mercy, because in the brother or sister that we assist, we recognise the face of God which no one can see. Each time we bend down to the needs of our brothers and sisters, we give Jesus something to eat and drink; we clothe, we help, and we visit the Son of God. In a word, we touch the flesh of Christ. Following Jesus is a serious task, and, at the same time, one filled with joy; it takes a certain daring and courage to recognise the divine Master in the poorest of the poor and those who are cast aside, and to give oneself in their service."*

Mother Teresa was a prime example of solidarity. She bowed down before those who were in despair, left to die on the side of the road, restored to them their dignity; she was never afraid to speak up to injustices. It was her faith that made the difference: she was a light that shone in the darkness.

Our country needs solidarity more than ever!

**May our faith lead us to be lights in our communities,
in our neighbourhoods.**

What can we do today to make this happen?

BALANCE SHEET OF LIFE

The most destructive habitWorry

The greatest joy Giving

The greatest loss Loss of Self-respect

The most satisfying work Helping Others

The ugliest personality trait Selfishness

The greatest "shot in the arm" Encouragement

The greatest problem to overcome Fear

The most effective sleeping pill Peace of Mind

The most crippling failure disease Excuses

The most powerful force in life Love

The most dangerous act A Gossip

The world's most incredible computer The Brain

The worst thing to be without Hope

The deadliest weapon The Tongue

The two most power-filled words "I Can"

The greatest asset Faith

The most worthless emotion Self-pity

The most beautiful attire Smile!

The most prized possession Integrity

The most powerful channel of communication .. Prayer

The most contagious spirit Enthusiasm

LIFE ends, when you stop DREAMING. HOPE ends, when you stop BELIEVING. LOVE ends, when you stop CARING.

So, please share this BALANCE SHEET OF LIFE.

FRIENDSHIP ends when you stop SHARING.

2020 Quiz

Questions

1. At the very start of the year, which country experienced devastating bushfires in every territory?
2. In January a volcano began to erupt in which capital?
3. In order to cope with the coronavirus pandemic a new temporary hospital was built in London. What was it called?
4. During her April special address, the Queen references a wartime song. What is it called?
5. What is the name of the former British Army officer who won the nation's hearts when he raised over £38.9m for NHS Charities in the run up to his 100th birthday?
6. The Covid outbreak is said to have started in a market in which city?
7. Swarms of which bug destroyed crops across East Africa?
8. What day and time were the 10 'C laps for the NHS'?
9. Which music mogul broke his back riding an electric bike?
10. Two members of the Royal Family stepped down from their roles: What were their official titles?
11. What did protesters in Bristol throw into the harbour during protests for racial equality?
12. Which footballer forced the Government to make a U-turn in their decision regarding free school meals during the summer?
13. Which F1 driver matched Michael Schumacher's record of single circuit wins after winning his eighth Hungarian Grand Prix?
14. Dominic Cummings claimed to have driven to which castle to test his eyesight?
15. Which notable figure tweeted in support of a conspiracy theory stating that the pyramids in Egypt were built by aliens?
16. Where were the Olympics supposed to be held in 2020?
17. Who said this: "As of 9am today, there have been three hundred thousand and thirty-four, nine hundred and seventy-four thousand tests carried out."
18. The World Health Organisation named 2020 the year of what?
19. How many days were there in 2020?
20. Which football team won the Premier League this year to end a 30 year drought?