

Thought for the week
The Baptism of the Lord
10th January, 2021

'His commandments are not difficult.'

Lord Jesus Christ,
our Divine Physician,
we ask you to guard and protect us
and all people from the
coronavirus and all serious illness.

For all who have died from it ,
have mercy;

For all who are ill now,
bring healing;

For all searching for a remedy,
enlighten them;

For medical caregivers, helping the sick,
strengthen and shield them;

For all working to contain the spread,
grant them success;

For those afraid,
grant peace of mind.

By your grace,
may you turn the evil of disease
into moments of consolation and hope.

We abandon ourselves into your
infinite mercy.

Amen.

In today's second reading St John tells us that,
'Love is keeping God's commandments,' adding, *'and His commandments are not difficult.'* We might think, "That's easy to say, but we aren't all saints like John!" Consider the first and greatest Commandments: we must love God with all our heart and mind and strength and we must love our neighbour as ourselves. To take the second instruction first, how do we go about loving our neighbour? It sounds fine in theory, but in practice it might not be so easy. After all, Mr Next-Door can be a bit rude and that lady in the supermarket just jumped the queue for the checkout, having grabbed the last loo-roll!

Maybe the first thing to consider is that we don't need to like everyone, we just need to love them as we love ourselves. Do you love everything about yourself? Me? There are any number of things I don't much care for in my character, but, like most reasonable people, I would have to say that I look after myself as if I loved myself. It's something to do with self-preservation and self-respect, perhaps. Maybe when God asks us to love our neighbour as ourselves, He is saying it's okay to not really like everything about everyone! The secret is to treat everyone as if you loved them. It was C S Lewis who made the point: you may be surprised to find that if you do treat others as if you loved them, then you could suddenly find that, actually, Mr Next-Door is not a bad chap at all, and maybe the lady in the supermarket was so distracted by personal worries that she didn't realise she was pushing in-front. (And even if they aren't such terrific people, who are we to judge?) How about loving God? We say the words, but how do we feel the love? As human beings it seems that we are programmed, as it were, to have feelings about things which are connected to our senses of sight, touch, taste and so on. How much easier it would be to love God if we could physically see Him; how impossible it would be not to love Him! Perhaps we could just apply the same idea as above: in any situation, ask ourselves, "If I loved God, what would I do?" And then do it. There's every chance that if we continue to act in that way, the right decisions we make will result in our drawing closer to Him, learning to love our neighbour better and God most of all.

'His commandments are not difficult.'

Fran Godfrey



Prayers Please

Please pray for Will Van Bree (Eveline's brother) who passed away on Wednesday

Please pray for Paul Wailen (Peter Halter's cousin) who passed away on Christmas Day

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Please pray for Timothy Kehoe, who is very ill.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has been readmitted to hospital due to the coronavirus.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter – in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 8 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Patrick O'Sullivan, Constantino Antao, Thomas Stewart, Charlotte Harris, Sheila Stone, Willem Anschutz, Sylvester Cottrell (snr), James Creighton, Eirlys Godfrey, Keng Leow, Jan Manning, John Creighton, Bill Hoban, Marie Prendergast, Elise Stitt and John Stitt.