

Christ Church Freemantle

Sunday 5th July; Fourth Sunday after Trinity

'My God and my All' was a favourite saying used by St Francis during the middle ages. My fellow Franciscan brothers and sisters of our local Romsey and Southampton group acknowledge how focused I am on that saying. What I have appreciated and valued during this lock down is the Daily Hope phone line set up by Justin Welby. Part of it is hymns we know and love. Such as:

Make me a Channel of your Peace

written very much with St Francis in mind. I think it was wonderful to see the Archbishop of Canterbury take the Easter service and listening to Pope Francis in his sermon from the Vatican. Pope Francis has urged people not to "yield to fear" over coronavirus, calling on them to be "messengers of life in a time of death". I think his speech was a very powerful message to us.

'When I needed a neighbour were you there'

with all the running around I have been doing, these words are very prominent in my mind looking after my neighbours needs however at the time of writing the lock down is calming and people are beginning to move around a little better and easier.

'All things bright and beautiful'

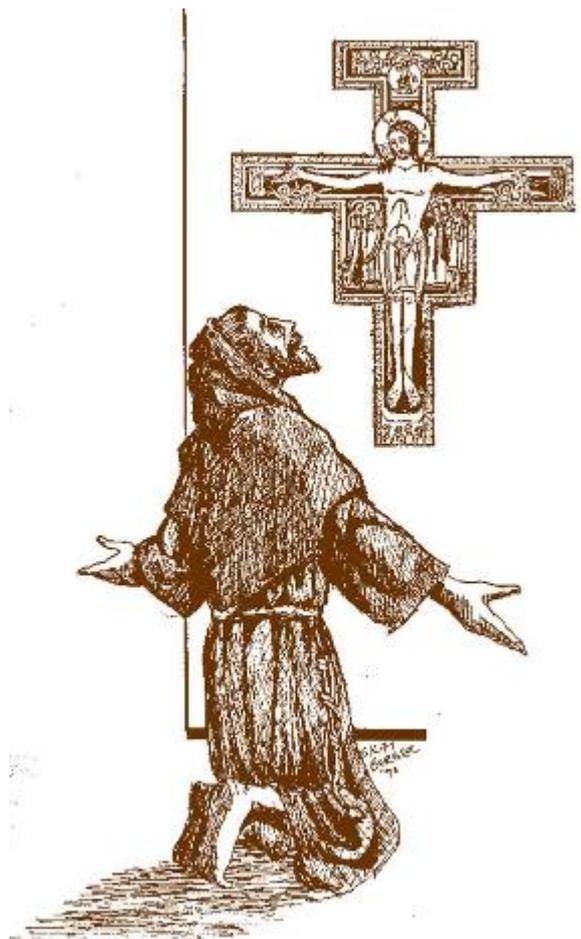
brings me to think about our world and creation which GOD gave us and the neglected flower beds, in our community garden. It's lovely to see it being transformed it makes me think how our 4 months have transformed most of us and the world into different people and different priorities to life. This hymn was one chosen for my daughter Beth's funeral.

Praise my soul the king of heaven, to his feet thy tribute bring, ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven

I think of our community where in our open space with a paved area with table and chairs we regularly communicate with each other within the 2m rule. There has been much time to be sociable with each other which has kept our spirits positive. It's been a time of refreshment and getting to know each other. It's nice to be able to share periods of time. Having the odd barbeque with each other.

Jesus is Lord, creations voice proclaims it

On Sunday morning at 11am I watch the video link from the RC Dominican sisters near Lymington. This is a transmitted live eucharist with hymns. The RC priest gives lovely not too long sermons, after all we are one church. I have been able to give more time to prayer in the mornings and been more contemplative. In the evenings I have found a lot of religious



films on most books of the bible which complements much more understanding to our biblical reading.

'Be still for the presence of the Lord.'

Time has moved forward and now ready for the time when we can meet up again and share our eucharist in whatever form. Unfortunately, we will not be able to sing at the moment.

Lastly;

Onward Christian Soldiers, marching as to war

I think we have all done our best in trying to keep to the rules and safety for each other. So many lives lost, and all the key workers deserve our grateful thanks for looking after us. We pray for all those who have lost their lives and for all those who fought their fight and won and got home safe. We think and pray for all grieving families and hope they know their loved ones live on in the eternal kingdom taking rest in the house of many rooms.

Lesley Cunningham