

# Sisters of Jesus Way

## A thought for April 2020

As the coronavirus news broke I was sitting with another Sister looking out on a field of sheep with their new born lambs, the sun was warm through the patio doors. It was a pastoral scene. Two birds came and sat on the fence only inches away, while others sang happily in the trees. A walk along the country lanes



made my heart sing as I discovered primroses, violets, even some remaining snowdrops. It was hard to imagine that this virus was spreading so rapidly and hundreds of people were dying. Now we are back at home, our guest ministry has stopped, we have decisions to make, a new ministry is opening up.

As we come to the end of a week with daily coronavirus updates we want to assure you of our prayers. Our message for today is that we have a hope that is “steadfast and certain”. We can look beyond coronavirus. Indeed, we must look beyond or be totally overwhelmed with despair. We pray in faith because we have a High Priest, Jesus, who has gone before us into heaven and pleads our cause before the Father. So we do not pray alone. This is a time for deepening our prayer life, taking it up a gear. We pray that we may learn the lessons of this humbling for surely that is what it is. None of us could have foreseen the present crisis, though there is much in scripture that warns us that it was coming. How easy it is to put our head in the sand and miss the warning signs! Now we are faced with a choice of how we are going to face this crisis.

Daily now we hear of people dying and among them perhaps we have a relative or friend. Others of us are experiencing the peace of quiet streets and are able to sit in our gardens and wait for the storm to break. For some the

work-load has been increased a hundredfold. Now is the time to pray for each other especially for those on the front line.

*If you have a prayer request please let us know and we will join our prayer with yours.*

When we were children we sang a hymn in school assembly “I know I will be happy if in this world I stay, for I will follow Jesus all the way”<sup>1</sup>. I’ve been singing it again recently but there is another song that rings in my ear “the angels beckon me from heaven’s open door and I can’t feel at home in this world anymore”<sup>2</sup>. Perhaps for all of us we find ourselves living in two worlds, the present with its suffering and the future with its hope of glory.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever! Amen”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Ann Bartlett Warner

<sup>2</sup> Jim Reeves

<sup>3</sup> Eph 3:20,21 NIV