

LOCKDOWN DAY 25 REFLECTION – 20 APRIL 2020

Good day dear Clergy and People of God wherever you are.

Our reading for today is Isaiah 40:21-31. The hymns I have chosen are *'All my Hope on God is founded'*; and *'Our God Reigns'*.

Yesterday, in the three local Dioceses and in the Diocese of George, we had the launch of **#SundaysInYellow**. Thank you for your active and energised participation. Do visit the DYPMC Facebook page to see what's trending. I pick up on their theme of celebrating 'Hope'.

The first thing we learn from Isaiah 41:31 is what **prayer** did for Jesus early in the morning and what **prayer** does for the believer today. *They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.* The description continues metaphorically: *they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.*

Isaiah is writing prophetic words of **comfort and hope** to the Jewish people during their exile in Babylon. Isaiah is also telling us today on day 25 of lockdown, that God is preparing a smooth road – without potholes – for them to return through the desert to their own land. Schools and universities have opened for the second term with **online** teaching. May/June **exams** have been postponed. Our Diocese is both rural and urban. In some areas there may be poor network coverage and connection. We pray with you in the education system, that the lockdown will reach a level that will enable you to return to your classrooms and lecture halls. Live your dream. Never give up. Maintain a good work ethic. Live meaningful lives. Do not be tempted to think that God is unaware of our struggles (vs 27). Our God reigns!

God assures us again today that God is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth (28) and, implicitly, that God is not unaware of what is happening to us. *God gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak* (vs 29).

Be assured that God **is able to** help us. To receive God's strength and power we, like our Risen Christ, must **hope in the Lord** and spend time with him **in prayer** (vs 31). Let us step out of the way and allow **God's Grace** to fill us with **Hope**. God is truly on our side. Jesus made a similar promise to tired and weary people in Galilee (Matthew 11:28-30).

I invite you today to reach out to anyone you know who is serving in the Education system. Also please encourage someone who is weary through age.

Let us Pray

Jesus, my faithful friend, I believe you are drawing me ever closer, with the whisper of **'Come'** in the air. I am grateful for earthly friends who **come** in all shapes, who love me as I am with all my strengths and growth points. Even though we cannot physically touch each other because of social distancing, I am deeply aware of their touches of goodness and care. This gives me **hope** and leaves my heart more open and alive. Thank you Jesus that you delight in us; that you are our source of life and that God is for us. **Amen**

"I am, because we are, because God is.....Opening hearts to heal God's world." Be assured of my love and prayers. Our God reigns!