

LOCKDOWN DAY 54– 19 MAY 2020

Dear Family of False Bay Diocese and our Friends,

Scripture: Matthew 22:37-40

Hymn: *Hark, my soul! it is the Lord.*

In our church's calendar today, we remember Dunstan, a great Archbishop of Canterbury who passed away in 988. He is remembered as a scholar, an artist, a musician, a teacher, and a metal work craftsman. He had a zeal for education. Both his parents were devout people. As a child he was delicate and highly strung. He preferred books to sport. He believed that he saw visions and related wonderful dreams. At the age of 21 he was installed as the Abbot of Glastonbury. Although he was young, the new Abbot at once took in hand the reform of the Abbey. His first efforts of reform were connected with education rather than the reform of the monastic life. From this time Dunstan had an influence on public affairs. Dunstan's work was national, for the whole people, and not for any section of it. Dunstan was a man of firm courage, ready to denounce what was wrong, but at the same time a man of gentleness. He strove to give his best and to be a true guide to his country in troubled times.

We pray Collect 5 on page 321 of An Anglican Prayer Book, praying that we may integrate the saintly qualities of Dunstan into our lives and that we will keep the faith in the troubled times that we are living in. If we should die tonight, what will be written of us?

Ben Zander, a famous conductor, tells of the realization he came to, that a conductor does not make a sound. His **power** depends on making other people **powerful**. Our job is to **awaken** this possibility in others. He suggests that we know we are doing it when their **eyes are shining**. In the people we encounter, how many shiny eyes do we see? If their eyes are not shiny, who and how are we being to them? We must also learn not to say anything that could not stand as the last thing we ever said.

Our readings today, invite us to be a "vessel of love". On the altar of the Lord in our churches, we see the **chalice, a vessel of love**. I suggest that you put any **vessel of love** on the **altar**, that sacred corner, you have created in your home. It could be a vase, a mug, a glass or anything that reminds you that you are a **vessel of love**. I pray that it will always be a reminder to you, that it is in God in whom we live and move and have our being. We know that we love God if we are living from the **commandment/commitment to love**. God **loved** us first, before we ever **loved** God. God **loves** us because God is good not because we are good. "*Hark, my soul! It is the Lord; Tis thy Saviour, hear his word; Jesus speaks and speaks to thee, 'Say, poor sinner, lov'st thou me?'*"

Being a **vessel of love**, finds its inspiration in the two commandments that Jesus taught and lived – to love God with all our heart, mind and soul, and to love our neighbour as our self (Mt 22:37-40).

During this lockdown, what little actions, little droplets of love are filling our vessel of love. The little actions done with kindness, selflessness, patience, forgiveness and respect are droplets filling the vessel of love.

Please **reach out** to anyone you know bearing the name of Dunstan; or any artist, musician, craftsman, teacher or anyone who has influence on public affairs.

In our prayers, we hold in our hands an empty vessel. We ponder its spaciousness, openness and ability to be filled. Imagine your inner self as a vessel waiting to be filled with qualities of love. God of love, we seek to be vessels of your great love. Let me carry your love into all parts of my life and pour it forth willingly and generously.

I am, Because we Are, Because God is ... Opening hearts to heal God's world. *In your great love, please speak to your clergy and help to feed the hungry.*