



SUNDAY BULLETIN

10-05-2020

5th SUNDAY IN EASTER 2020



I wish I liked crossword puzzles, but I've never liked even attempting them. The lockdown may just force me to change my mind. The current crisis has unlocked a great variety of new behaviours in our midst. The social electronic universe has ballooned with helpful ideas, including tidying out your grocery cupboard. Its amazing what can hide in there: a 2018 Christmas pudding, a jar of half-eaten Nutella, marinated Portuguese mini-squid tentacles, strangely shaped noodles, etc.

I wonder if our spiritual life resembles the back of the grocery shelf - do we still do our spiritual exercises in the same we did them 30 years ago or have we moved on a little? Matured as believers.

I've noticed some movies I enjoyed as a young man have stood the test of time while others come across as awfully lame. Was I blind to their faults then, is my cinematic taste now more sophisticated or am I just being picky?

Christian theology doesn't stand still. Anyone remember those books in the 60's that were going to expose the Christian faith as a delusional comfort blanket and replace orthodox theology with something fresh and bold for a new generation? Does anyone find John Robinson's *Honest to God* (1963) shocking today?

Scholars suggest there was a decline in churchgoing in Britain, Germany and Scandinavia from the late nineteenth century, which slowed or even reversed in the 1940s and 1950s.

Then what brought about the decline of cultural Christianity in the West? Scholars argue both Protestant and Catholic traditions were once dominated by conservatism, which came under increasing pressure from the post-war generation restless with the imposition of heavy-handed opposition to what many regarded as a more liberated (permissive) lifestyle.

Our own country one once had ludicrous petty regulations supposedly to protect the sanctity of the Lord's Day, which led to people being fined for buying camera film after 2pm on a Saturday. (I kid you not).

Now you are free to believe or not and you can even buy liquor (when there isn't a deadly virus around) on a Sunday. Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, free at last. Everyone deliriously free except those working for slave wages in the retail sector on weekends.

What is true will always stand the test of time. But sometimes even the truth needs spring cleaning.