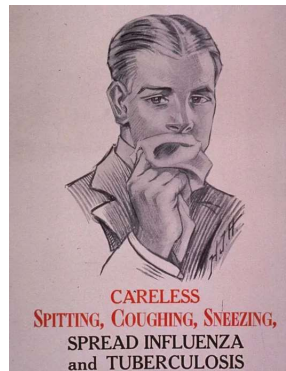


Religion in a time of pestilence

21 short prescriptions during the Covid-19 pandemic



Part 7



What were you doing on this day in 2019? I honestly can't remember. Will we remember on this day next year if we kept a good Lent, prayed and read our Bibles and worshipped with the help of our mobile 'phones and computers? Possibly.

Bad times have a habit of engraving themselves on our minds, while all too often the good things get forgotten. In my youth I often heard the older people go on and on about the hard time they had during the Great Depression. And those who'd gone "up North" during WW2 were often as guilty.

"What did you do during the Covid-19 pandemic, Daddy?"



“Depend upon it, sir, when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully.” Samuel Johnson.

I wonder how many of us have considered we may catch the virus and die. Viruses have no respect for colour or creed, or age or gender. Death is always the great leveller. Knowing we are mortal, should make us humble and contrite. These are two virtues scripture often reminds us are essential components of a godly person.

May the virus concentrate our minds wonderfully so that in the face of this great human misery, we may be mindful of what grows character in people. Some of my neighbours lack self respect – they dump their rubbish on the pavement, expecting the municipal fairies to remove it. Eventually. Do our character defects blight our lives so obviously and yet we remain blind to our faults?

Pray God may use a time of pestilence to enable us to do some spiritual spring cleaning. Then we can look back and say bless the virus, it helped me to become a better person. That’s how we can use something bad to get to something good.