

Cathedral Corner - Time To Reflect September 2020

Do you remember back in March and April of this year?

Even when life was changing and our routines were being curtailed, we all looked forward to the time when it would all be back to normal.

As May and June came, that wasn't happening as we expected, and now the summer has come and gone.

This is not a cause for despair, but it is probably a good time to take stock of what this year has meant for us in our life of faith.

So, here are some questions which might help you to reflect.

I am very interested in the answers that you give and would be very willing to gather together any feedback which could be a valuable source of information for the future.

But, in the first instance, please just use these questions as a basis for your own opportunity to review these times and what they might have meant for you:

How would you describe the change in your practice of your faith from Spring to Summer of this year? (patterns of prayer / experience of livestream Mass / a place in your home that you have found helpful for times of prayer)

When the ability to attend Mass stopped in March of this year, it seemed like a short-term inconvenience. Can you put into words what it felt like:

- a) Initially not to come to church
- b) As it became clear that it was not short-term and it formed new routines
- c) Personal reflections on the Seasons of Lent and Eastertide this year

What have you missed most about not being able to come to Church?

(The Eucharist / The Sacrament of Reconciliation / Gathering with other people to pray)

How have you joined the livestream Masses? (Computer / Tablet / Phone / TV?)

Have you found it easy to make that time 'holy' or are there always distractions?

What have you done if the phone has rung / a visitor has come while Mass is on?

Have you spoken to friends / family about livestream Mass and what it has meant to you?

Have you joined the livestream on your own or with family members?

Can you express how different it has been if you have had the experience of joining the livestream with others or on your own? Which do you prefer?

Can you identify any 'blessings' that you have come to see during this time?

(More time to pray / Daily Mass / a greater awareness of the Scripture Readings at Mass / more time to give to other people when you are not in a rush to be somewhere else)

How far have your 'travelled' in terms of livestream Mass / Devotions during these months? (Just one church / a variety of places locally / places that you have visited before around the country or simply places you are interested in / Masses in other countries, languages?)

What do you think are the challenges for the Church (parish / in our country / across the world) to consider as a result of these times?

How do you think your experience of these times will change your practice of your faith in the future?

A prayer of reflection on Spring and Summer 2020

Lord God

You have made us and you steer the course of our lives.

We live as creatures of your design
and we have been given responsibility for the world which you have made.

We thank you for this opportunity to reflect on the past months,
which we have lived in your presence,
never abandoned by your love.

These have been challenging times,
and we continue to seek your wisdom
to make sense of all that has happened to us.

Give us hope, give us courage, Stay with us on our journey, Lord.

Amen.