

NEWSLETTER

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Monday 20th April – Sunday 26th April 2020

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## Fr Jack

Fear is fear and it can be very frightening, even paralysing. At the moment people are afraid to go out. Many parents tell me, that their children are afraid to go out. People are afraid of hospitals, even to go for a routine checkup. Fear of an operation, fear of exams, or no exams. Fear of dying.

Many parallels with today's readings. The apostles are locked in the room, for fear of the Jews. They are probably also afraid of Jesus and recriminations.

They had abandoned Him at the time of his death. One of them had turned him over to the authorities. Another had denied he even knew Jesus. The others ran away, apparently in fear. That same fear still gripped them and the disciples stayed behind locked doors, like many of us now.

Suddenly the risen Jesus appears among them, and there is not a word about their betrayal, denial, and abandonment. **"Peace be with you," he says, as though nothing had ever happened.** They look at his wounds, and he repeats his remarkable greeting: "Peace be with you." If only we could follow in the footsteps of Christ and wish peace to everyone! If only we could forgive as he forgave! Where would be the wars, the discrimination, the hatred, the death penalty? They would go the way of death itself, **conquered by the resurrection.**

Jesus assures us that we have received the Holy Spirit. We have the power to forgive others of their wrongs against us, just as we have the power to keep them and ourselves in bondage.

## " I LIVE NOW, NOT I, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME"

As an Easter people we have become a New Creation and clothed ourselves in Christ.

### *Let Him replace your fear.*

Talking to so many people this week, I hear echoes of the first reading all over the place.

The neighbours are wonderful. "They check on me everyday."

Sense of brotherhood/sisterhood is growing. Again as you walk say hello, give a wave.

People are praying more than ever.

And every day, I and millions of priests are "Breaking bread on behalf of everybody."

**Our God is not deaf.**

*Please if you know anyone in need, help them and if you need help, give me a call.*

## National Hero

Captain Tom Moore, a 99-year-old war veteran, at time of typing, has so far raised **£17 million** for the NHS, by completing 100 lengths of walking in his garden, before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The spirit of people and God are unstoppable!

Our next ZOOM session is Tuesday,  
21st April at 7.30pm.

The link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/94165853294>

**Fr R. Cantalamessa is preacher to the Pope. His Good Friday sermon is on the opening page of the website. Brilliant! Spend some time and read it...reflectively.**

*Lots of love and prayers.*

*Stay safe.*