

# Chaplains Message – March ,21.

## 'A time for reflection'.

As we appear to be gradually coming to the end of this pandemic, we should take note that we still need to keep in mind a cautious approach. Let us bear in mind that what we have in the vaccine is a fix and the virus will likely be with us for a long time yet, albeit in an endemic form. What we will have to do is learn how to live with it. It may be that now is a time of reflection for us and it is so easy to see the bad things which have happened, perhaps we should reflect on what we have learned from it. Here are a few thoughts on which we may ponder.

### **Philippians 4: 11-13 NKJV**

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things, I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

The most precious people in the world are those who live, or used to live with us. Family, children, parents, relatives, close friends, brethren etc are the people we most care for. When we live with someone and see them at their best, or worst it can give us a sense of care and compassion which is really hard to express. We often take them for granted when things get difficult but now, we just want to gather them together and make sure that they're ok.

Meetings and gatherings. This could be the first time in our Masonic lives that we have not been able to attend meetings on a regular basis and it certainly does not feel normal. Perhaps we have failed to recognise just how much we gained from being at our meetings now that we can no longer attend. Another of the things we possibly take for granted.

Being busy can give us a false sense of accomplishing things whilst being still can make you think you're being idle. When you're forever on the move you feel that things are happening but very often with nothing much to show for it. The scenario we find ourselves in just now can teach us how to accomplish things by just sitting still and maybe teach us that what is important is 'being' somewhere, with someone.

Petty disagreements and the small things which tend to take over our lives are even more petty when compared to eternity. When we think of the things that have caused any trouble in our family lives, in our friendships or in our Lodges, in general they are things which have tended to get blown out of all proportion or misunderstood. Compared to the things which really matter they pale into insignificance and most of them are not worth wasting your breath on or the energy to post on social media. Were they worth any time at all and are they worth our time now? What is their value in this world if they have no consequence in the Grand scheme of things.

Have we ever thought much on our selfishness? The current situation we find ourselves in is possibly bringing it to the fore. Why can't we do what we want, go where we want. It may come as a bit of a surprise to find the emotions it evokes. Why should being able to go to a meeting, a festival, a game, the golf etc. matter so much to us. Why should being locked up in a house together bother us when we look back at our first reflection? Why do we watch the news every day to see the latest figures on the coronavirus as if we were keeping some kind of score. It's not just numbers we're looking at, it's people. We should be thankful for what we have and fix our eyes on that, not what we don't have.

Time has a way of moving constantly forward and we can never get yesterday back. Putting off a phone call, email, card, conversation are things we should maybe do now and not leave till later. It could end up as an opportunity missed, we can't get time back and shouldn't assume we have tomorrow.

The life we have is all too short and full of ways to waste it. There is one way to redeem it and that is to love the Lord and love Him above all else. Stick to the straight and narrow path which God shows us and not the broad path to destruction that too many follow.

**Matthew 7: 13-14 NKJV**

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

**Till the next time Brethren,  
Stay safe.**