

Chaplains Message – May '21

Well Brethren as we near the end of another month of this Pandemic we can at long last see light at the end of the long tunnel, although, we should be aware that Coronavirus is still here and that we should still be very cautious for our own sake and others around us. It's been a tough time for us all, and even tougher for others, particularly for those of us who have lost loved-ones.

If there is one thing that this pandemic has taught us, it is never to take our family, our loved-ones, our friends and our way of life for granted.

We all wait patiently for the day we can all meet up and enjoy our beloved Craft, but alas it could be a fair bit away until we can go about working in the same manner as before. There will be changes and Grand Lodge Strategy Committee are hard at work to make sure we can be safe when that day comes. Brethren there is a lot of work to be done within our own Lodges before that can happen. Each Lodge will have to be 'Risk Assessed' and that can only be done to suit each individual Lodge's needs.

Taking what we do for Granted

Do you take things for granted? Life and everything we are given, everything we have, should be appreciated and not taken for granted. It's an obvious statement, but we still need to acknowledge that fact. People today take a lot of things for granted, such as technology, money, opportunities and life itself.

Helen Keller (an American author/lecturer) contracted an illness at 18 months of age. She lost her sight and was also deaf. But that didn't stop her from becoming a champion for others around the world. She wrote many books and in January 1933 in a piece entitled '**Three Days to See**', she wrote:

Sometimes I have thought that it would be an excellent rule to live each day as if we should die tomorrow. Such an attitude would emphasise sharply the values of life. We should live each day with a gentleness, a vigour and a keenness of appreciation which are often lost when time stretches before us in the constant panorama of more days and months and years to come.

There are those of course, who would be who would adopt the motto of, 'eat, drink, and be merry', but most people would be chastened by the certainty of impending death...

Most of us however, take life for granted. We know that one day we must die, but usually we picture that day as far in the future. When we are in buoyant health, death is all but unimaginable. We seldom think of it. The days stretch out into an endless vista. So, we go about our petty tasks, hardly aware of our listless attitude towards life...

How do we keep ourselves from taking things for granted? How do we avoid setting ourselves up to be hurt? For one thing, it's good to remind ourselves that loss is always possible and sometimes inevitable. The good things in our lives may not last for very long. The best we can do is hold onto them for as long as we can, and appreciate the time, we had with them.

"Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God." Hebrews 13:16 (Good News Version)

STAY SAFE BRETHERN