

The Coronavirus Pandemic

IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY, ISOLATION AND ANTICIPATION

Almighty and All-loving God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
we pray to you through Christ the Healer  
for those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid-19  
in ... and across the world.

We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss  
of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease.

Give wisdom to policymakers,  
skill to healthcare professionals and researchers,  
comfort to everyone in distress  
and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and distress.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord  
who showed compassion to the outcast,  
acceptance to the rejected  
and love to those to whom no love was shown.

Amen.

*Archbishop Michael Jackson  
Dublin & Glendalough*

**Retreat to the things within:**

Dear God, a door on the world is momentarily closing;  
There is much anxiety and fear about the future.  
Open the door within my soul that I may take repose  
upon your eternal changelessness and love.

Let me nourish the things within: my home, my garden,  
my family, the autumn leaves and cooler nights, and  
more time to pray for many who are ill and dying,  
for carers, doctors, scientists and researchers.

For the time being, this is my cell with you and others;  
my cloud of unknowing, my place apart in waiting.  
Let me trust completely in you, believing that  
'All shall be well; all manner of things shall be well.'

dtw. with gratitude to Julian of Norwich

Another aspect to 'self-isolation'....

### **MAKE YOUR HOUSE A HOME**

An accident confined me to my lounge chair for two weeks  
I spent long hours getting to know the space in which I sat  
The contents of the china cabinet and paintings on the wall  
The family photos full of memories to ponder and relish

I would also gaze through the window at our front garden  
And watch parrots munching gum blossoms in the trees  
The postie making daily rounds on her motor scooter  
People walking their dogs and children on roller blades

I had lived in that house for seven years and never knew it  
Took it all for granted, just came and went and ate and slept  
Heavens -I take much more interest in a simple glass of wine  
I behold its colour, nose its bouquet, savour its piquancy

I know that this is only an earthly tent in which I dwell  
That I should not place too much store on worldly things  
But I will cherish home and family while I still breathe air  
And get ready for that mansion not made with human hands

David Thornton-Wakeford