

# A thought for Tuesday in Holy Week

by Ros Hoffmann

The last few weeks have been described as unprecedented, strange and troubled. People say to each other I've never known anything like it. I'm referring of course to the coronavirus pandemic and the shut down of most of the world. Who could ever have imagined that most shops would be closed and aeroplanes grounded!

This follows hard on the heels of massive fires in Australia, the ferocity of which hadn't been seen before. There was flooding that was especially bad in the north and west of our country and people are still living with the consequences.

We might not have seen anything like it, but people in past generations did. I'm not making light of the current situation. It is truly frightening how quickly the virus spreads and how many have died, but throughout history there have been pandemics, earthquakes, fires, floods and wars. Remember the Black Death in the thirteenth century? Things were so bad that a lot of people were sure the end of the world had come.

I'm not suggesting that that event is imminent but maybe as we have so much time on our hands, we should stop and think about what's going on in the world around us? One thing's for sure, we aren't in control, much as we'd like to be.



One thing that's come out of the past few weeks is the immense selflessness of the majority. A lot of people are working very hard to combat the virus and to help the vulnerable through the lockdown. There have been many acts of kindness. Yes, there have been some who have done selfish things that leave you opened mouthed in astonishment, but I like to think the good things outweigh the bad.

As we journey through Holy Week towards Good Friday, our thoughts turn towards Jesus' last days in Jerusalem. Those days were truly unprecedented, especially Good Friday. On that day Jesus made the greatest sacrifice ever. He died not for one person but for all creation. He took the sin of the whole world upon himself and cancelled it out.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

