

Homily on the Feast of Annunciation (25 March 2020)

Meaning of 'FIAT' in this CORONA PERIOD

In these days of anxiety and uncertainty, what message can we share on this feast of the Annunciation of the Lord? Today we remember the good news of the birth of Jesus announced to Blessed Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel.

Fulton J Sheen in his book '**Life of Christ**' says, "*Divinity is always where one least expects to find it*" (Life of Christ: page 27). It was mother Mary's humility and sincere heart that made her worthy to be the mother of the creator. She was excited to hear the unexpected and unbelievable news of the coming of the promised Messiah but also overwhelmed by the greetings and the important role she was to play. She had doubts of how it was all possible when she is a virgin, the society and other matters. In spite of all that, mother Mary decided to give the most challenging response in history which was – '**Fiat**' or Be it done.

Mother Mary's response, although simple, changed the direction of the history of mankind. She became the new Eve who saved us from Original Sin and helped us become the children of light once again, enjoying the true freedom and love of God the Father. Thus Mother Mary's humanity and willingness through the Holy Spirit resulted in the birth of the **Son of God** as the **Son of Man**.

Messages:

1) Let us be grateful to God for His love and Mercy:

As we are created in the image and likeness of God, and further we became his adopted children through Jesus Christ at the time of baptism. It is a pure gift from God that we got through the life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. So let us be humble enough to thank God for this great privilege and live like the children of God.

2) During this 'CORONA PERIOD' how shall we assimilate this 'Fiat**' (Be it done)?**

Something we never imagined is deliberate social isolation!

As the number of cases increase, familiar places and faces start becoming scary.

Can we say '**FIAT**' to the current situation?

Something impossible that we never wanted!

How do we see the hand of God in such a situation?

Here we need Mother Mary as our inspiration.

Her '**Fiat**' should enable us to go beyond the current situation.

We need to say "**YES**" for tomorrow, for others and for ourselves.

So we need to obey every rule and regulation for ourselves and most importantly for others, namely for our children and our local community and nation.

I am happy to share a message received from my friend in INDIA

THANK YOU, CORONAVIRUS

Thank you for shaking us and showing us that we're dependent on something higher than we think.

Thank you for making us appreciate the **LUXURY** we lived in; abundance of products, **FREEDOM, HEALTH** and not take it for granted.

Thank you for stopping us to help us see how lost we were in our "**Busyness**"

Thank you for allowing us to put aside all our problems we thought were so important and showing us what is actually important.

Thank you for stopping the transport. The earth was begging us to look at pollution for a very long time...we didn't listen.

Thank you for all the **FEAR**. It has been a global disease for years. But not many of us wanted to face it and now we have to face it and learn how to embrace it with love, kindness & the support of our community.

Thank you for this **REVELATION** of our lives.

Thank you as we finally understand what it means that **WE ARE ALL CONNECTED**.

Thank you for the unity between all of us. We knew the **WORLD HAD TO CHANGE**.

Thank you for helping us to undermine everything and giving us a chance to **BUILD THE WORLD FROM THE BEGINNING**.

This virus has connected us the whole world.

Gratitude supports the immune system but also lets us see things from many perspectives and it's up to us which perspective we want to choose.

BE GRATEFUL

STAY AWARE

THINGS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN

THE WORLD IS CHANGING NOW

Father Joseph

N.B

We, at St Paul's and St Clare's, remember you and keep you all in our prayers. Though we are not physically near, however our hearts reach out to you especially who need our support and care. Please don't hesitate to call the parish office if you need any support within the prescribed rules and guidelines given by the Government and the Church authorities. We are keeping everyone in our daily Mass offered every morning. Please let us know your intentions and spiritual needs.