

Easter 6B

Malcolm Muggeridge and a TV crew were making a documentary on Mother Teresa in her home for the dying. But they had a problem. It was quite dark and there was insufficient light for filming. But they decided to proceed anyhow, despite the fading light. To their surprise the film turned out beautiful and the light was just perfect. It was a sort of mysterious warm glow that was surprisingly bright.

Muggeridge was absolutely convinced that the light came from the love emanating from Mother Theresa and her co-workers in that home.

Just like the Sun's rays warm the earth so the light of God's love will warm our stony hearts, if we let it. We can always shield ourselves from the Sun and live in a house where the drapes are drawn. But instead of staying in the darkness, Jesus wants us always to 'bask in the light of his love' and not allow the Powers of Darkness to deceive us into thinking that God doesn't care about us or that His love is an illusion. When St Therese was dying she heard a sinister mocking voice which insisted that God had abandoned her and there was no afterlife.

The only way we remain in the light of His love is by obeying his Word but He does not withdraw his love from us even when we desert him, just like the Sun does not cease to shine when the sky becomes overcast. We may distance ourselves from God but He doesn't withdraw His love from us.

To prove his love Jesus laid down his life for us, his friends. It is only with a close friend we can share our inmost heart. Staying in the sunshine of his love means we hide nothing from Him – especially our sins.

When Adam and Eve sinned they hid from God among the trees of the Garden of Eden because they couldn't face Him after what they'd done.

When people say they don't believe in God, it may just be they can't face God, because they have elected to stay in the dark and deaden their conscience. Referring to conscience, St Mother Theresa, whom I referred to earlier, said of abortion and I quote "it's the greatest destroyer of peace, because it destroys two lives, the life of the child and the conscience of the mother". Last Sunday we heard that if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience we need not be afraid in God's presence. We can live in fear and buy into the fear of this world, or we can make it our intention to live from love and be a light in the world.

That does not mean you will never feel fear again, that your life will be trouble-free and it will be a cosy ride all the way. It does mean that when fear strikes, when problems crop up, when you are struck by a dark night of the soul, you will have the mental, spiritual and emotional resilience to ride it out, grow from it, be stronger for the experience and shine your light even brighter.

Will you, will I, be the love that is missing in this world and help reclaim this darkened world for light? The choice is always ours.