



Christmas at Bournemouth

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Lifeline

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new church

Lifeline



Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. [Proverbs 3:5 ESV]



Those in the stream of providence are people who trust in the Divine and ascribe everything to Him. But those not in the stream of providence are people who trust in themselves alone and attribute everything to themselves; theirs is a contrary outlook, for they take providence away from the Divine and claim it as their own.

Arcana Caelestia 8478:4

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Our mission is to express, share and experience with others in life an inclusive, non-judgmental vision of God's kingdom.

Letter

Dear Editor,

A response to “The Two Sacraments – where is the joy?” [December 1012]

Becky Jarratt poses a very worthwhile and interesting question especially as regards the Holy Supper Service. At a baptism there is a new life to celebrate at the heart of the occasion, there is joy and sometimes a sense of thanksgiving and sheer relief that mother and baby are both ok despite some ‘hiccups’ along the way. Carry forward this thought as we consider the Holy Supper. There is also a new life at the heart of this sacrament too. New life they tried and failed to bury in a borrowed tomb! The gospel story does not end at the foot of the cross but gloriously at the feet of the Risen Lord. There is a deep sense of thanksgiving and sheer relief in the joyful news at the heart of the Holy Supper too.

For me, within this simple act of remembrance is contained a connection to the full range of human emotion and experience from the heights to the depths. Whatever the state of heart and mind brought to the Lord’s table there is food and drink for the onward journey. Strength for the struggling, forgiveness for the sinful, the joy of praise and celebration for the thankful and more.

There is rightly a need for reverence and respect for the sacraments. There is of course a sense of treading on holy ground as we come to the Lord’s table, but

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Christmas at Bournemouth

We had very enjoyable Christmas Services and were pleased to welcome Verwood Concert Brass, who led the singing at our Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight; the Church was almost full for that occasion, which was a delight. Both adults and children took part in our Nativity Service, accompanied by a lovely PowerPoint presentation together with a joyful CD of children’s voices. Rev Clifford Curry had baptised twins a few months earlier, and we were so pleased to have the gift of baby Henry as Jesus in the manger. It was a lovely occasion. Our thanks are due to all those who led our Services and others who took part in many different ways and, in so doing, we were able to support three local Charities.



Lynda Pierpoint

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We try to be an image of God and freely give but our way of giving is so often constrained and limited by conditions we impose and spoiled by our selfishness. And if the kindness we offer is rejected in some way we feel hurt and reluctant to try again.

Now pause to think about what other people receive from us ...

Sometimes we get it just right and the care and consideration we show others is well received and has the desired effect. But think about the times when what we offer to others is not well received - they do not seem open to what we are trying to give.

Have we failed to ‘freely’ give by putting so many constraints on our love for others that they see our half-hearted approach for what it is - or is it that they are simply not open and ready for our approach at the moment. What they need right now may not be what we are trying to give!

Jesus said “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”
John 13:34 ESV

Giving and Receiving

This article is in the form of two simple brief meditations.

1. Meditation on what God gives us and what we receive

Take a moment to come into a quiet and thoughtful state ...
Ignore the problems of the day and the recent past and any other distractions ...
And now begin to think about the things that God gives us ...

- The world in which we live with all its wonders ...
- The love of family and friends ...
- Our unique abilities and interests ...
- Our freewill to choose between good and bad ways of living ...
- Our life ...

These are some of the things that God gives us freely. But what do we receive?
Is there a difference between what God gives and what we receive?

God gives freely, unconditionally, equally to all - but what we choose to receive depends on us and our attitudes. Are we open to God or do we choose to ignore or reject what he seeks to give us? Do we take our lives for granted? Do we misuse the freewill we have been given and fail to make the best use of it?

God freely offers us so much and yet we often fail to receive what we need because we keep the door to God barely open.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.
Revelation 3:20 ESV

2. Meditation on what we give other people and what they receive

Once again take a moment to come into a quiet and thoughtful state ...
Begin to think about all the things you give other people ...

Sadly we are all very imperfect human beings and we give other people a really mixed up set of things:
We can show love and kindness, care and compassion but it can be mixed in with thoughtlessness, a feeling that we are wasting our time, a sense that it is our duty and must be done, a feeling of self-righteousness for being so good.

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let us not forget how He was criticised by the rigidly religious for enjoying the good times with His friends. If as Swedenborg asserts the Holy Supper is "an introduction to heaven" [True Christian Religion 721] then here there is a place for psalms of praise and songs of thanksgiving in celebration of the One at the head of the table - our "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace." [Isaiah 9:6]

So in response to Becky's article for suggestions for more celebration at Holy Supper Services :-

An Easter slant perhaps highlighting a theme like 'new life', 'resurrection', 'gateway to heaven' or 'Emmaus supper' might be used in introducing and administering the sacrament. The first Holy Supper was a celebration of the joyful liberation from bondage in Egypt this might also be referred to.

A psalm of praise read responsively - to be read in a positive and cheerful voice as a shared thanksgiving being offered to the Lord by the group.

Silence and stillness used in an uplifting way to visualise the Lord's presence possibly with joyful pictures on PowerPoint.

There may be long faces who come to His table but let us celebrate that our Lord wants everyone to leave with His smile in their heart, His praise on their lips and their eyes looking heavenwards.

Rev Clifford Curry

Brief Notices

Articles and Rules

Copies of the revised pages of Articles and Rules following the amendments made at the 2012 EGM and AGM are now available from David Friend and anyone who wants one should let him know.

Apocalypse Exhibition

Locations are still being sought in the UK which might hold an exhibition of the Apocalypse Paintings by G Roland Smith. If you have any suggestions as to possible places that might be suitable please contact David Friend.

David Friend - 020 8904 3433 - drafriend@aol.com

Discrimination and Prejudice

'Neither this man nor his parents sinned,' said Jesus, 'but this happened that the work of God might be displayed in his life.'

John 9:3

You may have seen a poster sometimes displayed outside churches of a strongly evangelical persuasion which reads something like this: 'Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, the same today, the same for ever'. Taken as a statement that God's love is eternal and that his truth is everlasting, that is fine, but what people often seek in religion is a certainty that they cannot find in their everyday lives or in the world around them. Some people see the Bible as containing literal truths (it is described as the 'Word of God') so that reading and understanding the Bible provides the answer to all our problems. For others it is the authority of the church and its traditional teaching, what Roman Catholics call the *magisterium*, which is decisive. For many in the New Church the religious writings of Emanuel Swedenborg have a particular authority. He was commissioned by the Lord to describe a new revelation, it is said, so if we can understand his writings, and learn how they interpret passages of Scripture and discover what he has to say on particular topics, we need look no further. But I want to put forward a different view of religion from fundamentalism based on sacred texts or the authority of an ancient church institution. It is the idea that religion, and I speak particularly of Christianity the only religion I know much about, has developed or evolved over the centuries and is still developing today. Religion to be worth anything is not a matter of belief in, for instance, the hereafter, but a practical guide to how we are to live and how we are to relate to our fellow men and women.

I would like to take the recent Olympic and Paralympic Games, which are fresh in all our memories, as a paradigm for wider human society. I would like to address the subject of discrimination on grounds of race and nationality, sex, disability and finally sexuality. The Olympic Games originated in ancient Greece as a four-yearly festival of athletics between the often warring city states. The ancient Olympic Games did not put an end to wars between the city states and it was the disastrous Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta which destroyed the power of ancient Athens. The ancient Olympics were confined to men and when the modern Olympics were founded by the Frenchman Baron de Coubertin in 1896 women were similarly excluded. Their inclusion would, wrote de Coubertin, be 'impractical, uninteresting, "unaesthetic", and incorrect'. Ladies, as I am sure they were called then, were admitted to the Paris Olympics in 1900 to play lawn tennis and golf. Women were first admitted to athletics and gymnastics at the Amsterdam Games in 1928, but in the early 1920s there was

Easter Rally 2013

This Easter we will be returning to Manchester for our now annual Easter Rally event for young people aged 13 plus...

The weekend will be run from Thursday 4th April in the afternoon till Sunday 7th April after breakfast and will be led by Jenny and Steve Jones, Rev Jack Dunion and Rob Taylor. The Rally is during the School/ College/Uni holidays so we hope that many of you will be able to come along.

We will be staying at **The New Church College (Solce)** in Radcliffe, Manchester. The college is a large house a few miles from Manchester and is close to train/tram stations. It is much smaller than Purley Chase and does not have its own managers so we may need to bring camp beds etc and help out with preparing the meals ... (all part of the fun??!)

We aim to have plenty of time to have fun, relax and catch up with friends as well as taking part in discussions. We hope to get out in the local area, go bowling and have a "takeaway banquet" on one evening.

The price for the Rally will be £40 and we need your deposit of £10 ASAP! Send your deposit to us with your details on the booking form.

We also have funding to lower your travel costs! We are asking that everyone pays the first £10 of their travel and we will **pay the rest!** Just bring us a receipt or the number of miles you have driven and we will sort you out with a refund in the week after the Rally. If it is possible for you to share a car then please do...

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,

"In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

But you were unwilling, and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

Isaiah 30:15-16 ESV

Mooki Street declared a heritage site

In early January Rev John Sutton in New Zealand sent me an email to let me know he had spotted an article about Mooki Street in Orlando East, South Africa. I followed up the article and found more details on the official website for the City of Johannesburg on a page dated 4th December 2012. Here are some extracts:

Orlando East, the first township to be established in Greater Johannesburg area, is turning 80 this year and in celebration of this remarkable milestone the City of Joburg has declared many of its various landmarks heritage sites. Established in 1932 as a segregated African township on the outskirts of "white" Johannesburg, Orlando East has a rich political and social history. Mooki Street, one of the important Orlando East landmarks, was also identified at the council meeting as a provisional heritage site. Today Mooki Street is a busy thoroughfare but its significance as Soweto's first "high street" is often unrecognised. The street also boasts a cluster of public facilities and places of historical significance. These include Orlando Stadium, Orlando Communal Hall, New Church and Mooki Memorial College, Orlando High School, Orlando Police Station and Donaldson Orlando Community Centre (DOCC), all of which have already been declared heritage sites.

For readers not familiar with the 'New Church' background to this announcement it is worth commenting that it was in 1909 that Rev David Mooki, a minister of the African Catholic Church, discovered a second-hand copy of True Christian Religion in Krugersdorp. After several years and supported by the General Conference in Britain the New Church Native Mission in South Africa began to develop. In 1970 the church became fully independent under the leadership of Rev Obed Mooki, David Mooki's son.

During his lifetime Rev Obed Mooki visited the UK on a number of occasions. I particularly remember him in the 1960s at Purley Chase and again at the New Church World Assembly in 1970. But he also visited in 1954 as this picture shows. With Obed Mooki is my father Eric Misson and my two older brothers Raymond and Kenneth. I am the five year old on the right.



Alan Misson

a series of international Women's Olympiads. The fastest woman sprinter of the day was a young woman from Dulwich called Mary Lines (no relation I'm afraid). She retired in 1924, too early to compete at the Amsterdam Olympics. Since then women have gone from strength to strength, as we all know. Women's boxing was admitted to the Olympics for the first time in 2012 and it was a British woman, Nicola Adams, who won Gold in the flyweight class. Outstanding British women Olympians like Jessica Ennis, Victoria Pendleton and many others are household names.

It is odd to reflect that women have not made the same progress in all Christian churches as they have in the Olympic Games. Women have long taken their places beside men in the ministry of Conference and have held and do hold the rank of Senior Minister, but in other churches women are still denied a priestly or ministerial role, and the Church of England has failed, albeit by the narrowest of margins, to allow the consecration of women as bishops.

The modern Olympics were unable to prevent two world wars and, as we are painfully aware, conflicts continue around the world. But the sight of over two hundred nations, some of them very tiny ones, taking part in the parade at the opening ceremony was a moving one. Of course, we all cheered on 'Team GB' and rejoiced at the harvest of British medals, especially Golds, won by the team. But the Olympics are also about competing, and for many it was enough to have come to London and taken part. Racism has long had no part in the Olympic Games. It was a Black American, Jessie Owens, the Usain Bolt of his day, who won four Gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Games, much to the annoyance of Adolf Hitler who wanted to use the games to showcase the supposed superiority of the 'Aryan' race. The Olympics have continued to set a wonderful example to the wider world in tolerance and understanding in matters of nationality and race. The Great Britain of today is a vastly different country from the one that last hosted the Olympic Games in 1948. There were many iconic moments at the London Olympics, but one of the greatest must have been when Mo Farah won the 10,000 metres (and of course he went on to win the 5,000 metres the following Saturday evening). Here was a Muslim called Mohammed born in Somalia winning a Gold medal for Great Britain in a prestigious track event. When asked by a journalist if he would rather have run for Somalia, Mo replied, 'Look mate, I live here, this is my country'. That says a lot about modern Britain and is something we can set alongside the negative impressions we often have of Islam, exemplified recently by the extreme and violent reactions to a crude American film said to be insulting to the Prophet.

Long before the birth of Mohammed, the founder of the third of the great Abrahamic religions, Paul wrote in his Epistle to the Galatians:

'You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is

neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise'. Galatians 3:26-29

This is a passage that can be given a narrow interpretation as applying only to baptised Christians, but I like to think it is capable of being given the widest interpretation in accordance with the teaching of the New Church. Swedenborg would have been familiar with these words, although strangely he does not appear to have quoted them in any of his major works.

If the Olympics can teach us lessons about sexual and racial prejudice, the wonderful Paralympics opened up a whole new way of thinking about disability. Perhaps we should stop using words like 'disabled' with its negative connotations and find a new phrase like 'differently abled', although I find that clumsy and unattractive. A friend who was at the Olympic Park on the last Saturday of the Paralympics told me that she did not think about the disabled athletes as disabled, but simply as athletes, elite athletes. The London Olympics were wonderful and many may have thought the Paralympics would have been an anti-climax. That was very far from being the case. They were magnificently supported by the British public and brought us a galaxy of sporting stars: Ellie Simmonds, Jonnie Peacock, Sarah Storey and David Weir among others. I did not see any of the Olympic or Paralympic events 'live', but I am proud to say that I stood in the Strand to watch the parade held on the Monday after the close of the Paralympics and cheered on 'Team GB', both able-bodied and disabled, as they came past on their floats. The success of the Paralympics has hopefully opened many eyes to the 'miracle' of how severely disabled people, helped by their own abilities and sheer hard work and determination and aided by the wonders of modern science and technology, have achieved greatness. We have come a long way from the days when people were blamed for their own disabilities, either because of hereditary evil or their own 'sins', and a long way from the days when pity was the best we could offer them. To put it in religious terms, I think we can see the success of the Paralympic Games as an example of the working of the Lord's providence.

Finally, I want to touch briefly on one area that is causing great difficulty in Christian churches today, that of sexuality. Now one of the 'stars' of the London Olympics and Paralympics was not an athlete but a commentator, Clare Balding, who was the outstanding member of the BBC's commentating team for the Olympics and then did the same thing on Channel 4 for the Paralympics. I have heard it said more than once that if Gold medals were awarded for sports commentating, then Clare Balding should be awarded one. Clare is a clever woman, an English graduate from Cambridge where she was President of the Union. She is extremely knowledgeable about many sports and has a wonderful way with words. I am sure many of us learned much from her during the Games. It is a matter of public record that Clare Balding is gay and has found happiness

In Memory

Margaret and Arthur Jackson

By an odd coincidence, the sister and brother Margaret and Arthur Jackson recently died within months of each other, sometime in their eighties. People's most vivid memory may be of their leadership at Holiday Centres, where they would lead us valiantly to the summits of Snowdon, Scafell or lesser peaks. But they must also be remembered for more solid contributions to our Church.

They were nurtured in the Burnley Society, but both had fine brains and their academic careers led them elsewhere. Margaret became a senior maths lecturer at Nottingham University and there became the secretary and mainstay of the Nottingham New Church. When the church building became the subject of a compulsory development order she oversaw the transition to a new building. When she retired she returned to the North-west, settling in Arnside where she could look across Morecombe Bay to her beloved Lakeland Hills. There she became the convenor of the Arnside Study Circle until her death. She also served the Church for some time as a valued member of the Social Service Committee and made useful contributions to its reports. Margaret never married, but one remembers her nevertheless as motherly person who cared deeply for her students and fellows.

Arthur became a master at Mill Hill School, Britain's most prestigious Non-conformist Public School. There he joined the North Finchley Society and was also near the New Church College, then at Woodford Green, which recruited his educational expertise as a council member and then for twelve years as treasurer. When Arthur moved to Sheffield the link was broken, but when the College also moved north to Radcliffe, he again joined the Council and served as a much respected President from 1976 to 1982. Arthur married Margaret Goldsack and became interested in that family's concern for the education of the deaf, which preoccupied him in his retirement. Like his sister, although a keen intellect he was a warm-hearted man always desiring to help others.

Patrick Johnson

As regards the Word, this did not exist in most ancient times when the Church was celestial, for members of that Church had the Word inscribed on their hearts. Indeed the Lord taught them directly by way of heaven what good was and from this what truth was, and enabled them to perceive each of these from love and charity, and to know each of them from revelation. To them the very Word itself was the Lord.

Arcana Caelestia 3422:2

without the Lord's presence.

I would like to suggest some reading for you. This time it is one of the last books which Swedenborg published before he died. He was then living in London, as there was a lot of clerical opposition to his theological books. It is **The True Christian Religion**, paragraphs 731-752. It is one of the 'Memorabilia', or, his experiences in the spiritual world, and this one describes how he watched what happened to people who had died and woke in the spiritual world and had to learn where they were, and how they got there. Then a large crowd were asked just what they expected when they reached the spiritual world. And eventually, they sorted themselves out into seven groups with very different expectations of what they expected to find in the other life. It would spoil it for you if I were to say any more!

But consider that one day we shall all enter the spiritual world, and how much better it would be for us if we knew and understood what to expect, so I feel that all mortal people have a duty to know this. It is something that we cannot avoid, so why not read something about it? If you do not have *The True Christian Religion*, then you really are making the coming into the spiritual world far more difficult for yourself than it needs to be. I can think of Swedenborg who had to write this theological summary of the New Church. And yet, because of these new truths, he had to leave his country and live in little lodgings in London as an exile. And yet, he wrote so beautifully about our future eternal home. Please get this book because it is also about your future home, and I cannot believe that you don't want to know!

Reverend Jaroslav Im. Janecek was the man who started the New Church in what was then Czechoslovakia and translated many of Swedenborg's books into the Czech language. When he was a frail old man, he told me that he dreamt that he saw Swedenborg walking along a dark street, wrapped in a large cloak and looking very sad. As he passed, he turned to Rev Janecek and said, "So few people want to read my books!" I can almost see that dream, and it is still as sad. But you can do something about it! And, if you do, you will have a very clear idea as to what to expect in the spiritual world when you wake up there. What are you waiting for then? I am absolutely sure that the atheists do not have the right answer. While there is a lot of evil in the world, there is also a tremendous lot of love around. We really would not survive without it!

Rev Christopher Hasler

with another woman, the BBC newsreader Alice Arnold, with whom she has been in a civil partnership for some years. Now that is no more my concern or yours than if she were married to a man, but Christian churches, including our own, seem to be making heavy weather of how to recognise the long-term relationships of those who are attracted to a member of their own sex and not of the opposite one. It is not appropriate to rehearse here the arguments that have been advanced on this issue. I just want to venture my personal hope that we will approach it in an 'Olympic' spirit of tolerance and kindness. God's love and providence, our teachings tell us, extend to all human beings unconditionally. Most younger people in our society see a person's sexuality as 'no big deal'. I hope that we will soon find a way of recognising the love that gay people in long-term relationships have for one another and seeing in it yet another example of the Lord's providence.

Richard Lines

This article was first presented at a talk during a service led by Richard at the West Wickham New Church in 2012.

All Age Gathering

Theme – The sense of taste

Saturday 20th April – Bournemouth New Church

You are invited to an All Age Day. Drinks and biscuits will be available from 10.30am. There will be an opening service at 11am and the day will end about 4pm with a short service.

The morning will be based on the sense of taste. It will include craft work, cooking, tasting sessions and discussion time. There will be a shared lunch followed by games in the afternoon.

Please bring your friends and/or family and something to contribute towards a shared lunch.

Please contact Lara Nicholls for more details.
Please confirm your attendance no later than April 7th
by phone 0203 441 8773 or email laranicholls@talktalk.net

To be or not to be ‘an Atheist?’

How much are you affected by today’s atheists of renown? Such as Richard Dawkins who is best known as a militant enemy of the idea of God. But there are several others, equally ready to keep reminding us of their views, for example the actor Stephen Fry.

Since we have some outstanding scientists and philosophers on both sides, is it not about time to declare a truce and admit that there can be no proof of the existence or absence of God, because (if He exists) He is not a material being who can be snapped on a camera should one be at hand at the right moment. Quite simply, whatever such a snap showed would not be the invisible Divine. The debate might continue ad infinitum, but it will prove nothing.

There is something very human in the desire to prove that “I am right!” So either way, neither side in the debate can ever say that. But I have a suspicion that we, ‘believers’ will win in either case: If we die, and that will be the end of us, we shall never know; in a way that feels like winning the argument! But if we wake up in the spiritual world, we shall be pleased that we had been given so much information, both in the Bible and the Writings, say, in ‘Heaven and Hell’, about the other life.

And yet, this revelation is nothing to our credit. We understand that no other people in the universe have degenerated as we did on our planet earth. But, that is nothing to be proud of! We certainly live in a very corrupt society, and we are told that the ancient people had reached a point of extinction. And listening to our daily news, this is quite easy to believe. As people, we are violent and evil still. Dangers are everywhere, whether you are a small child, middle-aged or a frail old person and how many millions of small children die every year from starvation, disease and ill-treatment? Terrible things happen daily, and perhaps you too can sense shame for our planet.

But let us give some thought to the infants and small children who die every year. Of course, in heaven, they will gradually mature and be educated into adulthood. Had they survived till older age, many would have been corrupted and chosen to lead a hellish life, so that is where they would have gone when they left their first home.

Those small children who are taken into heaven, because as yet, they have not ‘sinned’ in any way, are educated by angelic spirits, and so have earned a place in heaven. The heaven peopled from our earth is balanced so that neither the one, nor the other society can dominate, or impose itself where it is not wanted. Like attracts like, and each one will look for those who are similar and who

understand each other. My own feeling is that when we, on this planet, become more honest and caring, not so many infants and small children will need to die. There will not be the neglect, or craving for abusing small children or young people, and this will be world-wide. Please read in **Heaven and Hell**, the chapter ‘Little children in heaven’ numbers 329-345. (not pages because different editions have smaller or larger pages) This is certainly a chapter that every bereaved family should read and realise that their child is well cared for and happy in the new home.

Our teaching about the life in heaven is not quite so easy to understand, because we need: “To love others as much as (or more) than oneself!” So what do I get out of it? I might ask. But if you are a parent, you will have had an experience of heaven: be sure of that! Not all the time, perhaps, but recall those moments when you were exhausted and the baby had been crying on and off for some time. Then suddenly all is quiet! There is peace! There is even a sweet smile on the child’s face, as if he may be with the angels in heaven. A wonderful reward - beyond any rewards or medals the world can offer. Your child is peacefully sleeping and you are happy. You know that it will not last, but perhaps you may remind yourself that we can only live in the present. The past (and the crying) is gone and it would be foolish to bring it up. And the future does not exist yet and you should not allow it to creep into your thoughts or raise some imagined fears. The baby is asleep, so rest for a few moments and give thanks to the Lord who is always with you. Enjoy that moment fully!

We seem to be affected by other people’s views and ideas. We do not usually know where they got them from, but if we knew, we might not take them quite so seriously. Let us stand firm on those things that make sense, knowing that the Lord is always present even when we are too busy to think about Him - He understands our problems and frequent confusions, which will soon pass away and be all but forgotten.

We need to respect people’s views even if they appear to us topsy-turvy. Yet at that moment they may be led by the Lord towards a solution of some problem that has bothered them for a long time. But have sympathy and reassure your friend that we all have to wrestle with new situations and panicking will not help. Give it some time and it will probably disappear from the mind.

But why is the Lord so often distant? That is for a good reason. Imagine that you are teaching a small child to swim. The day comes when you have to say. “I am not going to hold you up, and you do not need the ring because you can swim without it since it is only slowing you down. The child may object out of fear, but if you persevere, soon you will hear an excited voice: “I can do it! I can swim by myself!” Just think of how many times the Lord has apparently deserted you and you had to struggle apparently on your own. However, the Divine Love is never absent and upholds you, though you are not aware of it. We could never move