

Viruses Vaccines Antidotes



Despite the welcome arrival of vaccines, COVID 19 still evokes a niggling fear in many hearts. Anxious fear can awaken an almost hidden but real, selfishness within us, individually and communally. Group selfishness can masquerade as virtue or even as patriotism as we have seen recently. Fear can lead us to even see our selfishness as being for the good of ourselves and of those closest to us with no regard for the wider human family. The current international race to secure vaccines by the wealthy and powerful nations, shows little respectful care for the poorest countries who must wait until 2024 to protect their poorest. Of course, such selfishness is short sighted because no one is safe until all are protected, justly and with love.

Our generous enthusiasm that built a maternity unit in Turkwel last year helps to keep us sensitive to all the blessings we enjoy and can share with others less fortunate than ourselves. For many years now, a Trócaire collection box in the kitchen has frequently



alerted us to the ravages that famine, war and climate change, continue to wreck among our family members especially in Africa. On our behalf Trócaire continues to alleviate the distress no matter how challenging the task while awakening an ongoing antidote to the “hidden” selfishness in our lives. An urgent task this week is to collect your box (and one for a neighbour or family member) from the church. Alternatively, you might designate a piggy bank or jar, labelling it as Trócaire for this year. Of course, if your income has remained stable during this lockdown and you have saved money by not going out, you may be able to send a lifesaving gift to Trócaire this week. Like all charities, Trócaire is struggling financially to keep all services running just now.

As we hear in Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus weakened by hunger and maybe, afraid, after His forty days of total lockdown in the desert, overcame the temptation to put His trust selfishly in food and possessions. We too, can overcome our selfishness by risking generosity. Generosity is our vaccine and our antidote against fear and selfishness. Every day we have a choice either to feed the greed or take the antidote.



Our brothers and sisters depend on Trócaire and on us. Bígí linn.

Fr. Tom Clancy

Lenten Talks

Our series of 4 Lenten Talks starts on Tuesday, 23rd February with a presentation by Mr. Gerry Forde:
INTEGRAL ECOLOGY and Laudato Si' – a better way to see our world

The talk starts at 19.30 **sharp** until approx 20.15.

Please email faithinactionballineaspais@gmail.com by Monday 22nd if you wish to attend.

A Report on the Completion of the Maternity Unit in Turkwel is available on the parish website at <https://www.dennehycrossparish.ie/2021/02/16/building-a-maternity-unit-in-kalemunyang-turkwel-the-realization-of-a-dream-completion-report-15th-february-2021/>

Please share the link.

Faith in Action Group