

**Theme: Lent 5 ... Facing The Inevitable**

*Given our experience of the C19 pandemic, with the death toll at 125,000 and rising, there is bound to be a element of fear and anxiety amongst some. When we see the data and the statistics about who are most affected and then hear about the young and the healthy also dying, the whole situation can be hard to rationalise and make sense of. Our sense of mortality (and vulnerability) can really come to light.*

*However, we have all been given the wonderful gift of life. Quite frankly, it doesn't really matter whether we believe that that life has been given to you by God or not. We are here, now. And therefore with life must also come death. No one is going to live for ever.*

*So this week we are focusing on the importance of accepting the gift of life and the inevitably that comes with it, and making the most of the time that we have been granted. What should we be looking to do with our time here on this earth?*

[Mr Doust]



**Pope Francis:**

*'Past civilizations had the courage to look death in the face and viewed death not with fear but as an inescapable reality that forced man to live for something absolute.'*

**Prayers:**

Thy way, not mine, O Lord,  
However dark it be;  
Lead me by Thine own hand,  
Choose out the path for me.  
Amen.

God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things  
that cannot be changed,  
Courage to change the things which should be  
changed,  
and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.  
Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time,  
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
Taking, as Jesus did,  
This sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it,  
Trusting that You will make all things right,  
If I surrender to Your will,  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,  
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.  
Amen.