

Faith, plain and simple

Bishop Joanna urges us to rely on the rock of ages in these uncertain times

“The eternal God is your dwelling place and underneath are the everlasting arms,”

(Deuteronomy 33:27)

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life”

(John 8:12).



We never know what lies around the corner, but usually we assume things will carry on tomorrow much as they did yesterday. Personal tragedy disrupts this sense of normality and consistency but, in these last months, we have experienced this dislocation, fear and grief together. We do not know what lies ahead or how things are going to return to normal. The coronavirus pandemic has not only completely changed our lives but, alongside the political and economic upheaval of leaving the EU, it has also meant that it is impossible for us to know what our new normal will be or when we will arrive there.

This is the time for us to “draw water from the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3). As Christians, we are always called to walk by faith, to place our trust not in ourselves or in our material circumstances but in the God who created us, sustains us and has recreated us in Christ but, if we are honest, sometimes God has a hard time in getting through our sense of self sufficiency. Covid-19 has brought home to us the fragility of human life and human community. We are not called to be brave, to ignore our grief and fear but to put our pain and anxiety before God, who will answer us. God will respond to each one of us as we bring to Him the difficulties and fears that we face.

“Now is the favourable time, now is the day of salvation.”(2 Cor 6:2) Now is the time to look to Jesus, the light of the world, the light of Wales, the light of our diocese, our church, your light and my light. At Christmas we shall proclaim, “the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5). The darkness is real but it can never extinguish Jesus, the light of the world. “Seek my face,” God says to the psalmist, “Your face O Lord, I will seek,” the psalmist replies (Ps 27:8). Now is the time for us together to look to the light of Jesus, to seek God’s face day by day and find in Him our anchor and our hope in these testing times.