

## St Paul's in the Park Newsletter 13 September 2021

### Humble Service

*In his autobiography, All Rivers Run to the Sea, Professor Elie Wiesel of Boston University, a survivor of Hitler's concentration camps and the 1986 Nobel Peace prize laureate, reflects on the Nazi years. Like other communities with a large Jewish population, his hometown of Sighet, Transylvania, lived under constant cruel demands.*

*Denied basic rights, Professor Wiesel praises the conduct and character of their housekeeper, Maria. This courageous, uneducated Christian woman continued her service to the family. She not only took great risk by bringing them food but she also gave them refuge in her mountain cabin.*

*Refelecting on those difficult and dangerous days, the author concludes that help came not from the dignitaries and community leaders; it came from a peasant woman. Against such a background, this distinguished world citizen raises a troubling yet pertinent question: 'Of what value was their faith, their education, their social position if it aroused neither conscience nor compassion?'*

Service is something every single one of us can offer. We don't need to be in a position of authority or leadership to serve others, to make an impact on the lives of others. On the contrary, Jesus made it quite clear in the washing of his disciples' feet that the opposite is the case. The power lies in the act itself.

**'And since I, the Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. Do as I have done to you.'** John 13:14-15

**'Greatness is worldly fame and success. Carrying out humble service for humanity is true greatness.'** Chinonye Chidolue

### Lockdown

I have come across a word that I think captures what so many are feeling at the moment – *languishing*. It was described in the context of the lockdowns as 'a sense of stagnation and emptiness. It feels as if you're muddling through your days, looking at life through a foggy windshield. And it might be the dominant emotion of 2021.'

Many people are struggling with the emotional long-haul of the pandemic. Languishing can dull our motivation. For that reason, it is so very important to find purpose in our confined everyday life. I appreciate that many are very busy working from home and/or managing children. However, where that is not the case, we need to establish a routine which could include exercise (set goals for those walks in terms of incrementally increasing time and distance. By the end of lockdown you will be ready to partake in a marathon!), clean out those cupboards (again?!), cook for neighbours and most importantly, make those phone calls. In the end, anything we can do for others will give us the optimum sense of purpose. It could possibly help to remind ourselves that we are all in this together.

### Time for a Smile

A golfer turns to his caddy as they leave the last hole and asks, 'Do you think my game's improving?' The caddy nods. 'Certainly. You miss the ball much closer than you used to.'

## Raffle

Another reminder to please support our raffle in aid of our fundraising. Two 'His and Hers' hampers are on offer. \$10 per ticket. Money to be paid into 06 0991 0055055 01 (this is our build account) with your surname in Particulars and Raffle in Reference. Drop me an email and I will allocate ticket numbers to you.



## To ponder

'If God were not willing to forgive sin, heaven would be empty.' German proverb.

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