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## WE ARE THE HEART OF GOD IN THIS TIME AND PLACE

An ancient Chinese curse said, "May you live in changing time!" Alternatively, the Scriptures tell us that there is a "time for everything" [Eccl 3:1-8] and our time now is different to anything we have known. The world has passed through many major and dramatic changes and survived with new strength and life. After World War II there were dramatic changes to the world; the Empires collapsed replaced by multiple new nations, a dramatic increase in science and technology; radar, aircraft, medicines, vaccinations and many more. There is now in the world more knowledge, wealth, health, education, population and so on. This is all for the better or the worse, experienced by

some and not others, but constitutes major change. The Black Plague in the Middle Ages marked another major change in society and culture in Europe, as did the Potato Famine in Ireland and other places. After these events the world was no longer the same and there is no going back. This is exactly what we are saying now for the "new normal"; the world is changing, will change and there will be no going back.

**There is a time for everything,**  
and a season for every activity under heaven:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*



Is this a curse as the ancient proverb says or is it the "season for everything", in which we "cannot comprehend the work of God from beginning to end". People may ask why God allows such things to happen? God gets blamed for many things of human origin. What is important is how we live in this situation, how we react to the situation, how we adapt to what is happening. We know there are many good things happening as people care for each other, discipline their lives for the common good and find new ways of living. Through all the difficulties we often find inner strength, new gifts and talents, new friends, new relationships.

This crisis will finish, sooner or later, we will survive, and we will come out on "the other side". How we will be then and how the world will be, we cannot predict. However, we know and believe that Jesus will be "with us till the end of time". Our parents, grandparents and ancestors lived in different times, in a different world, which was their time and world.



We live now, and will live in the future, and that is our world. We are called to live now as we are with our families and friends, in this society and culture. We are called to faith and service of each other and called to create a Better World for all people. There is a time for everything and there is much we can do. Above all we cannot sit back, give up, hide in a corner, we are called to be alive, active, creative people who believe in the goodness of our God.



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