

The Manse  
Enniscorthy

16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear members and friends,

I hope you are keeping well and staying close to the Lord. I trust that despite our enforced separation you continue to experience God's presence as you spend time with Him in his Word. There are rumblings about churches re-opening in May. Let us continue to pray for this.

As you know each Friday morning our two churches open on alternate weeks for prayer. Today it was Wexford church's turn. Numbers were small as usual, but once again we were encouraged by coming together in this way.

The Zoom Bible Studies also continue Friday evenings, and these are good times when we exhort one another from God's Word. We are thankful for the technology that allows us to do this.

This Sunday's sermon is another in the "What happens After I Die?" series. Who in the Bible talked the most about hell? Perhaps it surprises you that it was Jesus. On Sunday we'll look at his parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, from Luke 16 verses 19 to 31.

Next week I am recording another edition of "Sunday Reflection" for the Christian Media Trust (CMT), to be broadcast soon on South East Radio. Give God thanks for these opportunities to teach from God's Word on this medium. This year my continued involvement with CMT was in doubt, as it had been before, because funding was going to come from the proceeds of Bingo booklets. However last week I was given an assurance that the money paid to the Trust from South East Radio would not be derived from that source.

One book I'm dipping into now is "Daily Readings from the Early Church Fathers", edited by Nick Needham. St Cyprian of Carthage lived from 200 – 258 AD. Needham describes him as a "wise, moderate, spiritually-minded leader of the mainstream Church amid fierce persecution and crowned his life as a martyr". About Jesus' words from John 17 verse 24, "*Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with me where I am*", Cyprian said that when we experience suffering and trials, we can keep going by remembering that Christ brings humanity to the Father and give those who believe in Him both the Father and heaven.

I trust this is your confident confession too!

Do get in touch with me if you need to talk about anything.

Your minister and friend,

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