

A few words from the Vicarage ...



With the sun shining and blue skies around, it is all too easy to feel content with life - but, of course, that is to ignore what is happening elsewhere; and we know that not everyone is as fortunate as we. We need only tune into the news or open a daily paper to realise that all is not well with the world.

There is the continuing and growing concern for the missing schoolgirls in Nigeria; the escalation of troubles in Iraq; the unrest in Syria and Ukraine - all of which go to prove just how fortunate we are today. Unrest and conflict is happening elsewhere right now.

Yet, it hasn't always been plain sailing for us either - as we reflect upon the situation 100 years ago when our country was being plunged into conflict as the First World War was beginning; and 70 years ago we were in the midst of the Second World War - recently remembered with the events commemorating the D-Day Landings on the beaches of northern France.

It appears that peace is a very rare commodity and needs to be treasured greatly - the reason why this needs to be so, escapes me. In a world full of such beauty and majesty, full of so many good things - humankind seems to be hell-bent in making a real mess of it! God has given the human race so much - certainly we have more than enough for all to live well and enjoy. Yet, often fired by either or both avarice and envy, there are those who want more and will have it at any price.

That price is peace and, sadly, it is paid largely by the innocent - who are trodden underfoot and cast aside. It is the innocent who suffer and it is the innocent whose peace is destroyed. Just when we may feel that calm is beginning to prevail, trouble flares elsewhere - we are in

this never ending cycle of violence - which has no place in God's plan for his world.

When we were given the gift of freedom to choose, the world was placed into the hands of humankind - God trusted the people he had created, to use the resources of the world to benefit all. To a large extent, much good has been achieved and not all is doom and gloom - but complacency is a poor partner and we need to pray that those who do evil, in any shape or form, may be turned from their ruinous path and may work together in the spirit of sharing and caring, so that love and respect may prevail.

Whether this will be achieved is out of our hands - we can only pray that it may be so. Only God, the creator of all things, can achieve this goal - we can but offer ourselves to be instruments in this work of restoring and recreating the world, torn and broken at human hands, to its full and majestic glory. May we each pray earnestly for peace in all lands and in all hearts.

God bless you,
your Vicar,
Fr D.