

Pastoral Letter

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Subject : Fill your February with love.

Dear Friends,

Oh dear- it's February – the month with grey skies, bitterly cold and frosty mornings when the car won't start. Poor old February, it always gets the blame when things aren't just right. It's often the month in which people would like to hibernate.

In contrast in the Southern Hemisphere, February skies are often cloudless and blue and flowers are blooming in a riot of colour. Barbeques and meals can be eaten outside on the patio and the swimming pool beckons. There are advantages of February in England so let's be positive about them. Snowdrops are prolific, early daffodils are peeping through the soil, and we know that the weather can only get better and warmer. Then of course there is a certain 14th of February when young hearts flutter because of the expectation of Valentine cards that might arrive. An outward declaration of admiration and love.

There is a love though that is always present, always there, every day and every month. A love that we sometimes forget about, perhaps even take for granted because it is always there. That love of course is the love of God. There is so much written about it by all the disciples, by Paul and by Jesus himself. For instance we surely remember the account in John's Gospel of the early miracle that Jesus empowered at the wedding feast at Cana when he lovingly turned water into wine so that the bride and groom would not be embarrassed at the shortage of wine. In Mark's Gospel we read of the woman who anointed Jesus at Bethany and was rebuked by many for wasting money. That woman could see that Jesus was someone special, offering a new dimension to life and instinctively she responded in love.

I wonder, do we respond instinctively to God's love or do we ignore it?

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13 is a wonderful exposition about love which is well worth reading many times. Read also 1 John chapter 4 verses 7 to 21 'God's Love and Ours', and John 13 verses 31 to 35. All of these readings illustrate very clearly the love that Jesus and God have for each one of us and for eternity. Fill your February with love. Read, believe and be inspired by these overwhelming messages of love. Then we can cast our worries aside and take in our stride everything that we meet in life.

Blessings to you all.

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