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| Newsletter June 22, 2020  Greetings every one. Today is the 22 June. On this day, 22 June 1964, I said my first mass, 56 years ago. Naturally my mind today is full of memories. I have seen a lot of changes in those years. Communism came to an end with the Fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, some of you might recall that moment. A few years later the Wall of Apartheid came crashing down and South Africa changed radically with the release of Mandala and the introduction of Democracy. The Irish struggle with England (for now) ended with the Good Friday Agreement and the violence came to an end. Big political changes.  When I was ordained Pope John XXIII had just opened the Second Vatican Council. He died and was followed by Pope Paul VI. Then he died and was followed by Pope John Paul I, He died and was followed by Pope John Paul II. He died and we got Pope Benedict. He resigned and now we have Pope Francis I. How many remember all those Popes. When I said my first mass all those years ago I said it in Latin, the mass in the vernacular languages had not yet been introduced. I was blessing the people in Latin. Today we speak of the priesthood of the Laity, where all baptized share in the priestly, kingly and prophetic mission of Jesus. As John Paul said, “the missionaries of the new millennium are the laity”. What big changes in the Church. What great spiritual, liturgical and cultural changes. And I am sure all of you can look back and see the changes that have taken place in your own lives. Life is all about change and development.  I am writing all this today to comfort you, console you and strengthen you. We are faced with the pandemic, but it will pass. Nothing lasts forever. Our God is the God of life and the God of history. He speaks to us through the events of life and the events of our own personal lives. His hand is over us at all times. We have to face challenges of one kind and another, as did Jesus, the apostles and all who followed after. We stand firm in our faith, confident in God’s love. We will see the end of this pandemic and pick up the pieces of a normal life eventually. In the meantime we bow our heads and accept the cross, say our prayers and place ourselves, our families, our businesses, our economy and our leaders under the protection of the Lord God of history. God bless you all. Fr. Barney |
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