

God feeds us. God waters us. God loves us.

And he does all this by the bucket-load. And nothing gets in His way.

Isaiah teaches us that God waters us. We are invited to come to the water, and listen, and eat and drink, freely and without price.

St Paul teaches us that God loves us. And that nothing that exists and nothing yet to come can come between us and the love of God.

St Matthew's account of the Feeding of the Five Thousand teaches us that God feeds us, and does so in quantities beyond our imagination.

What then of COVID 19? How does this fit into this picture. Why has God permitted it to happen? Some reflections:

- We are the vaccine and antibiotic generation. We have become used to a life substantially free from major infection risk, maybe even seeing it as our right. It's implicit in the phrase 'life expectancy'. We expect a risk free life. But it's not like that. Just two generations ago my own grandmother died young from Tuberculosis. Our current experience is perhaps a reminder to us of not only how precious life is, but how fragile life is. Our medical advances are great and good, but we're not God. So we must thank God for each new day and use it well.
- Viruses are part of life. Indeed, research suggests that viruses may have played a key role in the emergence of life on Earth, and may still be playing a key role in its continuance. If so, then they are part of God's creative process. Any time there is a natural disaster we ask the 'why' question. Why does God let this happen? But a world in which there were no storms or earthquakes or viruses might well be a dead world. Our lives are part of, and born of, the cosmic creative forces that God breathes into His World. Wonder and Risk go hand-in-hand, and greatest wonder is that in our short, limited, little lives God invites us to reach out and taste the majestic sweep of His creation.

COVID 19 is but a speck on the waves. The benevolent tsunami that is God's love and care for us will not be stopped by it. God will water us and feed us, in this life and in the life to come. There is nothing that can come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.