

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – Monday 23rd October 2023

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Light

Jill and I had a lovely few days in Cornwall last week. One of our highlights was discovering Watergate, not the political scandal of the early 70's, but Watergate Bay! We were drawn to it, seeing the mighty waves as we approached it, on our way to Newquay. One of the highlights of that brief visit, was going inside a cave. There were a few of them. It was quite eerie to be inside, hearing the echoes of our voices in that dark place, and contemplating what it might be like if there was an avalanche and we couldn't get out.

The world feels like a dark cave with no way out at the moment. The continued killing of civilians, in Gaza and to a lesser extent, but no less serious, in the West-bank by Israeli military and settlers, and the humanitarian crisis that engulfs it, along with the continued holding of hostages by Hamas, and further news of the atrocities they committed, flood our news. The killings and destruction of the Anglican Al-Ahli Arab Hospital, whether by accident or by a War Crime, feels like a catastrophic strike against humanity. We know that there desperately needs to be a ceasefire and return of hostages and yet, the mindless menace of violence, as Robert Kennedy called it, continues, with seemingly no end in sight, and it seems with little effort to halt it by world leaders. Other events add to this sense of foreboding and darkness - a catastrophic earthquake in Afghanistan, another woman killed in Iran simply because of how she was dressed, the loss of life and destruction caused by storm Babet.

We hadn't really got that far into the cave at Watergate Bay, and we could see the daylight a few meters away. I can't even begin to imagine what it's like for those who are caught up in these horrible situations. It is important to hold on to the possibility of change and hope. To see the light at the end of the cave. I took a photograph of the light from inside the cave, because it reminded me often of depictions of the resurrection in Google images. Resurrection means there is hope, that death and despair does not have the last word. Armed with this hope, we must engage the darkness as best we can. Practically, this could be expressed by going on demonstrations, signing petitions, writing letters to councillors and MP's, donating to aid relief, correcting inaccuracies and lies, and praying.

