

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

By Rev Kit Gunasekera

### About Death

Thinking about death, as I often do, but particularly as I prepared for the sermon last Sunday on Lazarus being raised, and Easter in general, I was quite struck by what Kiefer Sutherland had to say about death in a recent Radio Times interview:

*"I don't think there's any possible way out of this - we are going to die, and I'm on the downward slope towards that. We go when we go, and you just have to be as smart about it as you can, but stuff happens. And so, what I've actually ended up trying to do is take stock and realise how grateful I am about the life that I've had, that my children and my grand children are fine. And how lucky I am. If something were to happen, of course I would have liked to live longer, but I have to believe that on my last breath there will be a smile. Because I don't know how else to show some respect for the gracious life that I've had the opportunity to live"*

Being confronted by our mortality can be frightening and loosing a loved one, can be incredibly painful, emptying experience, and not everyone would feel as lucky about their lives. However there is I think wisdom in what he says. In taking stock of our lives and being grateful for what we do have. And seeing that as grace, the gift of God.

The gift does not end there.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not die but have eternal life - John 3:16

Moved by compassion and anger, what Jesus did, when he raised Lazarus from the dead, was a relatively small sign, pointing to what He would do to death, when they finally met on the cross. This, I think, gives the energy, or inspiration, to live as full life as we can, in the face of our mortality.

### **BIBLE VERSES:**

Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

- JOHN 11:43-44