

Fr Adrian Graffy says "WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?: People of different churches are putting about various opinions about the present pandemic, some of them rather bizarre. Much of this can mislead and worry people. We should be guided by what Pope Francis is saying, that the present situation is above all an opportunity to build a better world by listening to God's word, providing for the poor, and looking after creation. Here is a very helpful excerpt from the Good Friday sermon of the papal preacher, Fr Raniero Cantalamessa:

If these scourges were punishments of God, it would not be explained why they strike equally good and bad, and why the poor usually suffer the worst consequences of them. Are they more sinners than others? No! The one who cried one day for Lazarus' death cries today for scourge that has fallen on humanity. Yes, God "suffers," like every father and like every mother. When we will find this out one day, we will be ashamed of all the accusations we made against him in life. God participates in our pain to overcome it. Did God the Father possibly desire the death of his Son in order to draw good out of it? No, he simply permitted human freedom to take its course, making it serve, however, his own purposes and not those of human beings. This is also the case for natural disasters like earthquakes and plagues. He does not bring them about. He has given nature a kind of freedom as well, qualitatively different of course than that of human beings, but still a form of freedom - freedom to evolve according to its own laws of development. He did not create the world as a programmed clock whose movements could all be anticipated. It is what some call "chance", but the Bible calls "the wisdom of God."