

HEALING WAYS

The Order of St Luke

Spring 2012



Almighty God, who inspired your servant St Luke the physician to set out in gospel the love and healing power of your Son: make obvious in Your Church the same love and power for the healing of our bodies and souls; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

My Dear Friends

I am writing this on Palm Sunday early morning, looking out from my study window at the distant Mourne Mountains, grey blue against a clear pale blue sky, and listening to the bird song. My attention is taken by a small group of about twenty five or thirty Brent geese on one of the little islands just off shore. Occasionally they rise and fly together, returning to the island again, as though preparing for their big journey. They are part of a huge number who have been with us as winter visitors feeding on the eelgrass in the estuary and in the nearby fields before returning north again. They will stop over in Iceland to recuperate and fatten up before the onward flight over Greenland to their breeding grounds on the tundra of the Queen Elizabeth Islands high in the Arctic region of eastern Canada. Their journey will take them over 3000 kilometres of inhospitable sea and ice. It is a miracle of nature that these amazing birds travel so far yet return each year as part of their normal way of life. They accept the struggle of existence and travel on, as though the very acceptance brings strength for the journey. How much we could learn from that!

In reading Professor Helen Leathard's article, 'Consider the Lilies and Ravens: Do not Worry, Give Healing a Chance' (page 10) I am again reminded of God's provision and care for us. If we are honest, most of us want to 'arrive' without the discomfort of the journey. However, St Paul writes to the Christians at Rome: *And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.* (Romans 5:3-5)

Perhaps it is the prompt to take up again the responsibility for our own life and destiny. With the ethos of the Welfare State, and given all that is good in caring for everyone, corporately and as individuals we have become complacent and begin to feel that it is our 'right' to have complete care and assistance, without realising the need to take continued responsibility for ourselves and the care of those close to us.

Wishing you every blessing

Pat Mollan

