

Broken Branches

"Take courage! God has healing in store for you; so take courage" (Tb. 5:10)

ISSUE 151 – Oct/Nov 2022

In Memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Entered Eternal life 8/9/2022

No doubt millions of words have been written about the death of her majesty Queen Elizabeth II (reign of 70 years) and I believe rightly so.

The passing of a monarch who from the very beginning honoured her position with all of its duties and responsibilities and including her vow to be faithful to her promise to serve her people to the end of her life "be it long or short" and true to her word did so.

Indeed, even until 2 days before she passed away, she attended to matters of state receiving incoming Prime Minister, and accepting resignation of outgoing Prime Minister.

Looking at her life, via TV screen, it was possible to see how frail and gaunt she had become though her smile was still there, as always.

It was visible to see that the end was near and not surprising although when it did come almost surprising that it did so and a shock.

With her passing much will change (still to be seen) as much of all our lifetime most of us have known just her as a monarch and never have known a male monarch and his style of governance.

The programme of saying goodbye was spectacular and watching her family grieve it was seen how much she was loved. Her grandchildren especially loved her. Like all grandchildren the monarch to them was simply grandma.

During the funeral service and the stripping of the royal symbols of reign (crown, sceptre, orb and

wand of office) there was a sense of stripping someone. Whilst done with dignity, still a stripping.

When the wand of office was broken by the Lord Chamberlain to denote the end of office, it reminded me so much of the crushing of the papal ring of Peter (after the death of every Pope) which has a sign or symbol of finality.

The other incidence or moment which was special for me was seeing the coffin slowly descend and the lone piper mournfully begin the piping and then turn a go, piping all the way out of sight until the dirge faded.

This must have been so painful for her family to see. For me it was also a painful moment because it reminded me of my son Mark's coffin descending and I can still see the many red roses on top of it and then gone.

In the instance of Her Majesty, as the piper faded, what seemed like into the distance, it reminded me of the words of our hymn "turn your eyes upon Jesus look full in His wonderful face and the things of the earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace"

We can imagine that she would have looked one last time at her family and turned to go towards her Lord.

And this led me to think that all of us are given this opportunity to leave with witness and grace. To look back and remember the fruits of life but be able to leave them behind once the task was done.

As I continued to think about this particular beautiful funeral and all the funerals not so spectacular, I was reminded that we owe this to every child who passes by this world, even for a minute, instead of considering the unwanted child as genetic waste.

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Every one of us, including every child who passes away (intentionally or otherwise) should be led away by a piper and then passed on to an angel who will continue to lead the way. The mournful tone gave us the sense the goodbye was final.

In this case irrespective of wealth, symbols of office, she took nothing with her and so the same for all of us who pass by. The things of the earth become dimmer and dimmer as we gaze into another and homeland another face.

I understand that some of my readers will not be may not be monarchists but here I am not speaking about the monarchy and next in succession or money, wealth, commonwealth, princes, princesses. I am speaking about the visible signs of saying goodbye to someone who has been loved and who had a family and the visible signs of grief of the family.

This for me showed how children of the King (God) should be farewelled with all honour. With care and I hurt for the babies who are aborted, miscarried, who pass by unknown, unremembered. There is no pomp and ceremony for them because they were "unwanted." Or in case of miscarriage "reason unknown."

As I said that final lone piper and the mournful dirge affected me deeply. The disappearing of the piper round a corner and then slowly the tone fades had a deep meaning for me. It reminded me of many things from my son Mark to the millions upon millions of infants who die whether in the womb, as babies, stillborn, starved to death, murdered, violated these were also children of great value and as I looked at this event, I placed those who died unknown in the company of a queen and countless angels who could then guide them home, not dismembered, abused, bleeding, starved but as

beautiful children to be presented to their father God.

Whilst my sentiments may make no sense to most of my readers the farewell of Queen Elizabeth II was important for me because it made my resolve to do the work that I do much stronger.

We are often given visible images of things we may not be able to understand and for me this was one of them. I have a special love for all babies and want all of them to be trumpeted into the kingdom. Their value has been inestimable

RIP Queen Elizabeth II a part of my and our experienced history.

Euthanasia.

It has been reported that another young child had life support removed in the same UK hospital which removed the life support of three other children in recent memory.

This recent young boy (12 years old) has undergone the same experience of three others Charlie Gard, Alfie Evans, Alta Fixler and now Archie Battersbee.

Perhaps what is the most distressing for me is the fact that the wishes of the parents are overridden by both doctors and courts. Since when do these intrude into the life and decisions of parents? Who gave court permission? Who gave doctors permission to override the parent's rights? Are there no parent's rights in UK? Can UK hospitals and doctors only treat children with a cold and rash and others in danger of being literally killed because their decision ensured that the child will die.

Why not transfer the child to a hospital who will wait out the time with the child. Are they afraid that they will be seen wanting as doctors? And what about the courts? Have they now entered into the bedrooms, families of British people and decide what to do with the children and if child becomes too expensive to keep, then off with it?

What are parents? Just people to have a child for the state who then takes over when it feels necessary and timely to do so.? Is the role of parents to conceive, rear a child but have no real rights? Rights only on which coloured shirts, clothing the child will wear, which school to send child to? Pay for it's schooling and rearing in time for state to take over. What to feed him and when needed to be present, and if illness occurs then the state takes

over and decides that maybe this child will be too costly and better disposed of.?

Perhaps as we look further forward or even backwards, we can come to the understanding that this became possible when our society gave courts and doctors the right to decide the fate of children including when and who is to live and when and who will die (abortion) and doctors having forgotten their Hippocratic oath obliged and

those who didn't and wont oblige lose their calling to heal

It can be said that the doctors know whether the patient will survive the injury which led to this decision, however what is difficult for me to understand is the fact that other hospitals offer to take the child and continue the life support but the hospital and UK courts still say NO. Don't parents have a right to take their child where they see fit. To try everything possible to help their child? What are the UK doctors and hospital afraid of? And more important why do parents continue to take their hurt, wounded, sick, child to that hospital where the possibility is the removal of life support. This I don't understand.

These children don't belong to the said doctors, or said hospital or said court or anyone else but is the child of parents who conceived him/her or raised

him/her and not hospital or the doctors or UK Courts.

It's also of confusion to me why European Court of Human Rights doesn't want to get involved but they will get involved in other Life issues? How come???

The day we women surrendered our right to government bodies to determine life and death of our child, that was the day that the child lost its strongest protection. Abortion and the legal nature involved in this slowly took away all life rights of children whether we like to believe and hear this or not.

Charlie Gard, Archie Battersbee, Alta Fixler, Alfie Evans, are children who have died in this manner over the last 5 years. How many more?

This is not to say that the child would not have died anyway, but given time and prayer could not the wound heal? Could not the body repair itself? Could not be a moment of hearing a call and wake up?

How many stories have we heard of awakenings after long term coma?

If I were a mother in the UK, I would not be taking my sick/wounded/ill child to a hospital where it seems that the doctors and staff seem to

give up on their patients. I would be afraid and I could not trust them.

Euthanasia is not just giving poison to someone conscious enough to make a decision to die, but also it can be refusing to help a patient to live.

Mother Love

In a recent conversation with a young mother, we were discussing why she was having so much trouble with her baby refusing to sleep. Her baby seemed tired and behaved in a manner we would recognize as being tired but for some reason as soon as the infant was put into her crib she would begin first to whimper then cry, then scream. I thought that this must be the stuff that makes for post-natal depression and anxiety.

*...learning what a
baby likes and
reacts...*

Tiredness, insecurity, sense of failure, sense of not being able to be a good mother. All these and more contribute to a new mum's loss of control and loss of self-awareness that she is a new mum and she learns as she goes along. She will learn what her baby likes and needs and together they synchronize their life together, but it takes time and when a mum is exhausted and baby continues to cry the idea of synchronizing is too distant to be even thought about.

It can be said that every parent, especially first-time parents, are unsure of their capabilities at parenting and there's the fear that they will do the wrong thing by their child, and hence a child who will not sleep will cause depression and anxiety and then negative thoughts that she is not a good mother and a mother who becomes tired to know "what next" and this can become a cocktail of pain for both and sleep time becomes a nightmare for both.

I have, on many occasions, spoken about and even written about this particular topic. I've spoken about new parents putting a baby in a beautiful nursery away from family voices and noises thinking that this is what is good for the baby to help it to go to sleep.

Well-meaning as this is, that is, putting baby in a beautiful quiet nursery, frightens the baby because this is alien to the newborn and young one.

The child who has just been born and taken home has also just gone through a difficult rite of passage, birth. It has seen the light of day; it has heard not muffled but unmuffled tones. These are new experiences and the baby has a need to feel secure with these and so to take the baby home and put her in quiet room away from noise is very strange and when it comes to time for sleep it's even worse because of the silence and lulling baby to sleep and putting her in crib and hoping that she'll be sleeping. and then mother has that moment of pure rest and bliss then that bliss is shattered because the crying starts with first whimpering and soon develops into very loud and demanding cry and the stress levels of mum and dad rise higher.

I have in the past been called "baby whisperer 😊" by some of my friends because I was able to pick up a screaming child and within a short time have calmed him/her down and within a further short time have been able to soothe the baby enough to be lulled to sleep. There are little tricks which are

learned by parents as we go along. No parent is born with a manual or "how to" booklet, we just know how to love them and the rest we need to learn as we go along. And we at times making mistakes but still learning. This is what mothering is. Learning what and how baby likes and reacts to. But this knowledge comes slowly and mine after 4 children.

Returning to the beautiful quiet nursery. Silence. And the baby is not used to silence. The baby has lived within her Mum's belly for 9 months with all its noises, gurgles, loud voices, gentle whispering noises, tv noise, car noises, neighbours, heartbeat, and so forth. The baby has lived with mum and normal life with normal day to day events/experiences, and not silence. Whenever there was a short silence, it was because mother had gone to have a rest but still the heartbeat and gurgles continued and baby was secure.

Then after the hardest work the baby will ever do (birth) it's put in nursery with other screaming babies and this continues the noise that he/she is used to. And when with mum and dad and their known and recognised voices comfort baby again because it feels secure the security of baby is comforting through the recognition of heard of heard voices.

At home and in that nice and beautiful silent nursery it's alien. Strange. And for an infant frightening. Suddenly all the knowns are not there. The sounds, the voices, are gone and responds with fear and cries and the mother/father thinks that they have done something wrong.

As a baby whisperer (my own and friend's babies) I learned that to pick up a swathed baby (this makes child feel secure like in womb) gently walk around, whispering soothing words. Any words which are gentle and soothing and the rocking of baby by walking will calm baby down. Placing head of baby on side of heart so baby will hear mum's/dad's heartbeat will help much because baby has spent 9 months hearing the rhythmic noise of mum's heartbeat and after birth the comforting noise is no longer there so placing head on side of her heart whilst walking and rocking with noise in background will replicate the environment which baby recognises and feels secure.

The trick is not to immediately put baby in its crib when she calms down and seems to be nearly asleep but to continue rocking, walking gently and even

whispering (if needed) gently words, for a time until deep sleep has been achieved.

A mother is best person to pacify a child (sorry dads) because baby knows mother's heartbeat, noises, voice, movements, gentle voice, and calming voice. And most importantly mum's smell. We know that the senses smell and hearing are most important. From the womb these are also most important. The baby learns to recognise them and even in older age a smell can immediately bring to mind a long-ago memory. So likewise with an infant. Baby is always calmed by the voice, smell touch of his mother.

This is why there is a special bond between mother and child and it began at the moment of conception and will continue all lifetime. This is also why a mother will always know when all is not well with her child irrespective of age of her child. A whiff of someone's perfume or colour of flower or smell of pastry or other food will remind child of mum.

I have also wondered many times if child destined for abortion and the mother's confusing thoughts, anxiety, emotional turmoil is also transferred to the baby and whilst child would not understand what these emotions are all about it understands that these emotions are not good and also begins to be fearful and further, I wonder if the connection between mother and child, although short-lived has remained or been retained in order to remember.

It's not surprising that only a mother can calm and soothe and settle her baby in the beginning months because she and her baby are already connected with one another (through their dialogue) and then slowly others (dad, grandparents, siblings et al) are able to be included in the baby's life. Mum and baby are tied to each other for life irrespective of what life has to offer and bring.

In time as baby becomes used to life within the household, has been introduced to own room with mum sitting in room making it feel safe, and whispering beautiful things and soothing voice then a time comes to slowly disengage and allow baby to fall asleep naturally. Baby has now become used to the noises and toys, and colours of its own room and will be comforted by seeing them and having them there.

There was a period in time when the theory was that if it was sleep time then put baby in its cot and if he didn't like being there and started to cry

and then scream then let him cry himself to sleep (during my era) that it would soon learn that no matter how much crying there wouldn't be a response. No one would come and subsequently cried itself to sleep. And we wonder at the emotional trauma of some adults! Not blaming anyone as this what was being taught.

This I believe is one of the cruellest things that can be done to a baby because a baby cannot understand that a lesson is being "taught" but feels abandonment. Feels frightened and alone, has attachment issues (insecure attachment) which can later manifest with the development into more serious issues. Allowing a child to cry himself/herself to sleep out of exhaustion is not teaching the child anything but anxiety and fear. The child cannot learn at this age.

I understand that this method was the "flavour of the month" for a time, but it was not one of the best flavours and I hope that young mothers of today, with help if needed, and necessary, understand better and do better. Especially as stress during the pregnancy and later stress ex utero may result in negative emotional life of the child and later adult.

My friend who was mentioned at the beginning of this writing tried slowly to change habits and her own learned ideas and began to listen to and understand and respond to the language (different cries) of her baby. And they learned to whisper to one another love and nothing but healthy love.

Because of the different lifestyle of today's young parents and the working commitments by both parents, there has been a forgetting that children do not stay young very long and the first several years are formative and set the groundwork for future life and coping.

Sadly, unlike mothers of the animal world, human mothers do not carry their young one everywhere and the child is still securely attached to mum and I have long thought if this might be a reason why so many young ones are into self-destructive behaviours. They have never learned their voice of authority. Who it is that they listen to for guidance, because of separation due to work needs or at times career desires, social needs, and so no voice of authority has been established and one that they will hear and believe and understand and even, dare I say it, "obey."

Letters

Dear Anne,

Thank you so much for your generous service to Our Lord God. Your newsletters are such a powerful witness of your beautiful faith of Him who creates life and death.

Its always life nourishing to read your interpretations. I love them and you're really living them with people around you! Hope you are well and am sending a little donation to help. God bless you Anne I love your spirit and courage.

Love and prayers.
Trudy S.

Dear Trudy,

Thank you so much for your kind donation but also for your beautiful words. They are very encouraging. Through difficult times words like this help very much God bless and keep you safe.

Anne

Dear Fr Michael,

Thank you for your kind donation and your beautiful words of encouragement. (The rest of letter personal)

I very much appreciate your care for me and this work. Your quote from St Mother Teresa of Kolkata echoes with me.

"I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and that we change thing things."

Fr Michael Sometimes it is so hard to remember this

The changing of our own selves is so much harder than us "doing" things to think we expiate. Being a "voice" "hands" "mouth" "feet" and love for others sometimes is harder than sitting down and reciting prayers though these are so important to carry us.

There are seasons where its hard to pray and its then that our work needs to become more solid and harder.

Anne

Dear Kay,

For privacy reasons, just want to acknowledge your care (mobile) and say thank you. As I don't know if its OK to publish this, I simply say thank you for your contact and your words and donation.

God bless
Anne

It can be very easy to see a young person in terrible trouble and say “Its drugs” and maybe it is but could it also be drugs because of loneliness and a sense of being abandoned? Can it be because their voice of authority is unknown to them? Can it be because there is a confusion of not knowing “who am I” and child needs reestablishment and ownership of self-lost in its life behaviours.

Being a parent is hard beginning from sleep time to throughout lifetime but through all of it is very worthwhile is a charism with divine origins.

The Human Being a Mystery.

The mystery embedded within human being is a mystery of love and life and specifically for the woman it is always to be a mother. Her secret and throughout time and history she has always been there. She has always conceived and carried and borne a child. She has been “fruitful” Conception and birth are a secret hidden deeply within her and perhaps we in our present and recent past time should mourn and lament the fact that this mystery/secret has been either forgotten or lost.

We have forgotten that the right of every woman is to fulfil that “right” to bring to birth that secret that she has carried. Bring to birth and fulfilled the call to fruitfulness but sadly our era has invaded that secret place or realm of the true feminine with many other “types” of femininity and artificially conceived mysteries.

We know that woman can feel for others because she has carried within body the body with all its weight, needs, calls, of another. Though smaller than her but none the less the body of another. She has felt what its like to carry another and cannot forget that knowledge. She can feel the pain of the other because she has carried the other

A woman with a deeply wounded and hurt spirit/psychology cannot hear or understand the other’s soul calling because the language and dialogue of soul to soul is intuitive and even if

powerful energy is sent it cannot be heard because of a barrier set up around it. Like a scab which has formed around a wound. The scab is strong protection against further pain and will not allow other intruders

I will not leave you alone I will come to you

And so, a woman is imprinted with the response not to flee but to “come to you” and not leave you to suffer alone. She was, after all, created with the finest materials and all honour is meant for her. For this we pray.

Dear friends I have come to end of this issue of newsletter. Please continue to pray for me and my “girls” and continue to help me with much prayer for health issues. Also, it’s becoming very difficult to continue as support has almost ceased and its the 7 permanent supporters who have helped me to continue with office expenses.

I am not sure whether to continue or to close the office. My Melbourne office is still continuing well and clients there are still wanting to see and hear from me, but Perth office is difficult. So, if it’s the Lord’s calling to close then I will do so.

I will ask for \$\$ support but leave it in your care to see how the Lord guides you.

I will let you know how the guidance leads me in the next issue.

Till we meet again. Thank you, Fr Michael M. It helped a lot and several others.

Book sales would also help.



Anne Lastman

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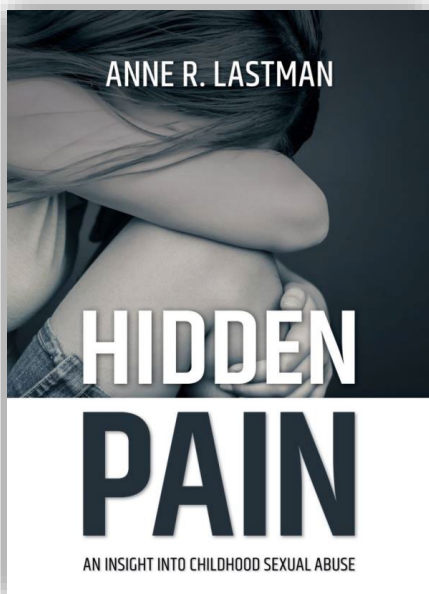
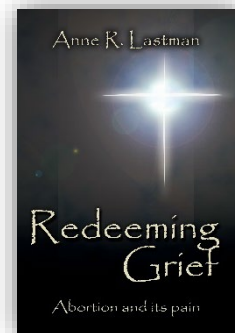
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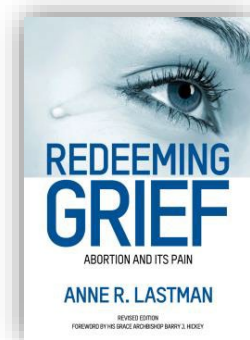
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This is not a step by step guide to dealing with abuse. It is the result of my engagement with those who have come to me originally for post abortion counselling and on further investigation it was found that abuse (especially in cases of multiple abortions) existed in their history. It is my hope that **HIDDEN PAIN** can be of help to those who read it and more so be vigilant and not to turn away when a child is suffering.

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