

Reflections

We will defeat this pandemic

A RECENT study carried out by the Pew Research Centre of the World Economic Forum reveals how people in 14 advanced economies in Europe, North America, Asia and Australia feel about their own countries' management of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Over all 73 per cent of people thought their own countries did well in handling the crisis to the exception of two important countries in the world. 52 per cent in USA and 54 per cent in UK reported that their

countries have done a bad job in dealing with this outbreak while Canada, Denmark, Germany, South Korea, Singapore and Australia scored above 80 per cent indicating good management of this crisis.

Our crisis management abilities are one of the best in the world and yet the public feels that the UK has not delivered the necessary response, resulting in more infections and death. Sitting on the glorious throne of liberal democracy, we find an abundance of patriotism and prosperity in the last decade in the USA and the UK.

This is even the case during austerity and an economic downturn despite the soaring national debt in these countries.

With the intention of harbouring patriotism and communal solidarity our national media and the politicians tend to either exaggerate our capabilities or downplay our problems for the fear of public shame.

President Trump constantly negated the seriousness of the virus even after he contracted it himself, but he admitted that he minimised the virus's severity in order to avoid public panic. In the UK, the tug of

war between politicians and health experts has never been so tight as it is now. This tension and the lack of clarity have fuelled laxity and lethargy among Covid-19 law-breakers. These are just a few of the many reasons for the recent second spike of the pandemic.

I am aware that this is not the time to find fault with anybody, but it is important to understand where we went wrong and how to make the rest of our efforts error-free so that we can defeat this contagion. Covid-19 is an invisible enemy and at times it can

seem that there is no light at the end of this dark tunnel.

Humans, with the power of God, have dealt successfully in the past with every threat to humanity. It might look as though we feel weary and weak at the moment but we will win at the end.

'He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.' (Isaiah 40: 29)

**Darline Joseph Marianathan
St. Boniface Okehampton
Holy Family Chagford.**