

EVERY 100 YEARS!

When we hear the *C19 corona* virus mentioned, people sometimes say; “*that we are now living in unprecedented times.*” I would like to qualify this statement while at the same time not disputing that these times are definitely difficult.

Since 1720 there has been a widespread *pandemic* and also many before that time. In 1720 there was the *Bubonic plague* mainly spread in France resulting in at least 126,000 people dying. Then in 1820 there was the *Cholera epidemic* that begun in India and then rapidly spread throughout Asia killing at least 2 million people. In 1920 there was the infamous *Spanish flu* that is said to have killed 50 million people worldwide. Now in 2020 there is the *C19 corona virus* where so far, the worldwide death toll is at least 200,000 people. In the USA alone 50,000 people have died. And at the moment there is 2.8 million confirmed cases throughout the world.

Kathleen O’Mara (1839-1888) was an Irish born writer and she wrote this poignant poem in 1869 while reflecting on pandemics; “*People now stayed at home more and read more books, they listened, rested and exercised more. They learned new ways of being, people began to think differently, and the earth was able to heal. People grieved more and they were dying more so they made new choices and had new visions and then created new ways to live.* “

Some reactions to viral pandemics don’t change over time! *Fr Martin R Maunsell*