

# THE SECOND FALL

*Sally Spencer writes...*

We are now a couple of weeks into social distancing, some of you even longer. No work for some people, no school, life has been turned upside down.

So, as we look at the 7<sup>th</sup> station of the cross where Jesus falls for the second time, we can begin to feel what it's like to fall and not know how to get up. We've only moved on a few days from Palm Sunday when everybody was cheering Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, but now the mood has changed and he is alone.

I'm sure that's how a lot of us are feeling at the moment. It's not long ago that we were all together, enjoying one another's company, and now everything has changed. Some of you are in a house by yourself, used to visitors, but none are allowed to come. Others are having to adjust to constant close confinement with people that we love dearly, but now there's no escaping each other's company. Families are trying to work and care for children at the same time.

Just like Jesus as he carried such a heavy cross, it feels as though we are carrying a heavy cross, and just like Jesus, all of us at some point over the next weeks or months will stumble and fall, we'll reach breaking point and cry out in pain and anguish and feel that we can't go on.

But Jesus got up and carried on. He persevered and trusted God because under that heavy weight Jesus was not alone, he had his father with him, encouraging him at every step. And that help is there for us too, we are told to 'turn to me you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest'. God is with us, to listen and to guide and we are never alone.

Although many of us are feeling isolated and scared we've all been brought together in so many different ways. The phone lines will collapse soon under all the weight of calls that are being made to check in on family and friends and community spirit has had a resurgence.

God was with Jesus as he fell and we will be with each other now.

Give me your courage, Lord.  
When failure presses heavily on me  
and I am desolate,  
stretch out your hand  
to lift me up.

I know I must not cease,  
but persevere  
in doing good.

But help me, Lord,  
Alone there's nothing I can do.  
With you, I can do anything you ask.  
I will.