



Centre for Faith
& Public Issues



Pope Francis and Let's Dream 3

- *Clive Pearson*

The Pope sees Covid 19 as a time of sifting, testing. Without explicitly mentioning this (at this point in the discussion) he turns our attention to words taken from the parable of the prodigal son. It is time to 'come to our senses' and see with new eyes.

In a way not found in the health and safety advisories, Francis reminds us that 'we belong to God' and to one another. In a rather intriguing way, he reckons that the present time is 'our Noah moment'. He is not here referring to floods / destruction but covenant, regeneration, a re-set into which the socially just themes of sabbath and jubilee fit.

There are obstacles to overcome - 3 in particular: narcissism (where everything revolves around the satisfaction of ourselves: it is only good news if it is good news for 'me'); discouragement and pessimism.

Francis reminds us that we belong to the moment. The creation and its story transcends us. Covid 19 is like a 'siren call ' to bring us back to 'reality'.