

THE BEST AND THE WORST

Times like this bring out our best and our worst, Father.

We've seen the worst already:

People grabbing at household supplies
with no thought for the needs of others;

Or refusing to cooperate with those
who are trying to minimise the transfer of infection—

People driven by their own wants.

But we're also seeing the best, Father:

Young people shopping for the elderly,
leaving supplies on doorsteps;

An opera singer singing in the street,
to entertain the neighbourhood;

A convoy of vehicles passing the home of a child,
to celebrate their birthday;

Neighbours greeting one another over the fence,
to bring companionship and encouragement;

Health workers, with no thought for their own safety,
working long hours to save the sick—

People driven by others' needs.

You bring out the best in us, Father.

Jesus changed our world with his love,
And Paul described that love eloquently:

*Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud;
love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not
keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is*

happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. (1 Corinthians 13: 4–7, GNT)

Will you help me to love with this love?
Will you bring out the best in me?

Yes, God will give you much so that you can give away much, and when we take your gifts to those who need them they will break out into thanksgiving and praise to God for your help. So two good things happen as a result of your gifts—those in need are helped, and they overflow with thanks to God. Those you help will be glad not only because of your generous gifts to themselves and to others, but they will praise God for this proof that your deeds are as good as your doctrine. And they will pray for you with deep fervour and feeling because of the wonderful grace of God shown through you. (2 Corinthians 9: 11–14, TLB)