Part I

- 1. I have dwelt long in the house of lockdown: I have enclosed myself in the habitation of Netflix and groaning.
- 2. They have set me my bounds which I shall not pass: I keep the statutes and observe the laws.
- 3. I entered into the supermarket, but it was barren: its plenty was turned into empty shelves, and there was no toilet paper in it.
- 4. Neither were there delivery slots by day nor by night: verily, not even from Ocado.
- 5. [2nd part] Deliver us from the wilderness of delivery: and deliver our deliveries unto us.
- 6. I am become a stranger unto the pub, and unto the office: even an alien unto Pizza Express.
- 7. The sun ariseth, and I go forth to work and to my labour: even in my pyjamas until the evening.
- 8. I am weary of Zoom, my throat is dry: it melteth away like wax as my broadband vanisheth.
- 9. Yet they gape upon me with their mouths and say: thy toddler sitteth lurking in the corner of the screen, and lo he imagineth mischief.
- 10. And thou, oh daughter of lockdown: thou shalt do thy phonics in exile.
- 11. Also thy literacy and numeracy work, and thy comprehension: yea verily, even thy fronted adverbials.
- 12. They have sprayed markers for my feet: they have set a place for me on the pavement outside Tesco Metro.
- 13. The unrighteous forget their social distancing: I swerve from their transgressions.
- 14. [2nd part] The people rebuke each other: and bear in their bosoms the rebukes of many people.
- 15. A mask hath covered my face and I wash my hands: neither have I found any hand sanitiser to comfort me.
- 16. The pestilence layeth siege against me: according to the cleanness of my hands shall I be recompensed.

Part II

- 17. Clap your hands, all ye neighbours: clap in the front gardens and on the doorsteps.
- 18. Make a thankful noise, for it is Thursday: clap your hands and bang the pots; bang the mighty pan from the stove, the frying pan from the draining board, and the little pan from under the sink.
- 19. Rejoice, for thou hast booked a delivery: a weekly slot even unto the end of June.
- 20. Surely plenteousness shall be in thy house: goodness shall follow thee, at a two metre distance, all the days of thy life.
- 21. [2nd part] Our garners shall be full: and Netflix shall bring forth thousands and ten thousands of new episodes for evermore.
- 22. Arise! Yea verily for the lockdown easeth: gird thy face with apparel and go into the city.
- 23. Rejoice in the fruitful offices, all ye who were furloughed: but thy going out and thy coming in shall not be on public transport.
- 24. Rest ye alert by day, and alert by night: and the pillars shall deliver ye out of the wilderness.
- 25. Judgement and remembrance shall be thine heritage: and ye shall dwell in the house of austerity forever.

Catherine Clarke 2020