

## hope

we don't simply want to be weeds in a plot  
that's become empty and overgrown,  
or grass that's now begun to cover  
pavements left empty in our lockdown.  
or leaves blown in the autumn wind.

we need become blazing proteas -  
named after Proteus, son of the  
greek god poseidon.  
he could transform himself  
into different shades and shapes.

we need now to speak in profound words.  
beyond the elaborate and overbearing  
ones, we normally offer as praise  
or hope, or gratitude. we need to dig deep  
within for these new words.

words that thank whatever gods or forces  
we believe in - in prayer or in silence.  
a silence that allows the other  
voices inside of us to speak.  
We need to become our own poseidons -  
ready to transform into what our  
world is asking of us now.

*Craig O'Flaherty 2020*

