

TRINITY NEWS

Advent III Timely Moments and Moments in Time that Can't be Undone

Advent reminds us of traditions that we repeat and sudden events out of daily rhythm that we can't have over.

This morning about noon I was looking for a parking place near Dr Mark Moriarty's Rooms in Dalton St., Orange, New South Wales. I had an appointment to see him to get some prescriptions. Suddenly I saw a free spot on the other side of the road in front of the doctor's place. I turned right to cross the road and I put the blinker on. But it was not done quickly enough to prevent a heavy Range Rover crashing into the driver's side door (right hand drive in Australia). I have a stiff shoulder to prove it, and a busted door.

The driver was the wife of Michael, a police officer stationed in Orange. She was shaken, but gracious and caring, surprisingly so because I was clearly in the wrong, or that was my story. I told her to tell her husband of my assurance that it was not her fault. What relieved me the most was that their little child was safe in a protective seat in the back. That would have been an unbearable tragedy. Then I went to see the doctor at last. Blood pressure was 140 over 80. Not bad after a scare. When I came out of the doctor's surgery Officer Michael was waiting to see whether I was all right. Now that's graciousness! A Bishop's car colliding with a policeman's private car is not a good scenario! In such cases of course I would always be in the wrong, even in Australia. We cannot have such moments over. Time cannot be turned back except in the movies.

We move through the themes and readings of Advent. The traditions are very old, but the themes of light and darkness, the absence and the presence of God, the crushing despair and the sparkling joy of being human, and the forbearance and the judgment of God are all there. Whenever we are asked to examine ourselves as we are in this season and in Lent, we encounter our best and our worst, our lost dreams and fresh hopes. We also catch the outskirts of the robe of God's glory and just a touch cleanses us and sets us on fire for a better day. We cannot have some things over, but our worst nightmares from the past and in the present can be tamed by a future where we are honest with ourselves and true to our trust in God.

Bishop Arthur Jones