

# TRINITY NEWS

## Advent IV The Christian Way of Life

“There is no one in need within earshot of our hearts whom we may ignore – because in each of them is the living plea that we do the will of God” (Joan Chittister).

Jesus said to Thomas, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

A young woman in Manila within reach of stardom recently returned to her mother’s Muslim roots and chose “the Muslim way of life” instead. I do not hear Christians describing their faith as “the Christian way of life.” Perhaps it is assumed. But that is not good enough. It is a distinctive way of life, modelled on the life and teaching of Christ, and we should acknowledge it.

It was at Antioch in the first century that we were first called *Christianoi*, “Christians” (Acts 11:26). The living of the Christian life was first described as “the way of the Lord” (Acts 18:25) and “the way” (Acts 19:9, 23; 24:22).

Living the Christian way of life is a conscious following of the Way of Christ. It is a heightened sense of the presence of God who accompanies us through the continuing presence of the “Spirit of Jesus” (Acts 16:7). One of the first Christian writers after the New Testament described Jesus and the Spirit as “the two hands of God.” The Holy Trinity is a most beautiful Christian doctrine, entirely essential for our understanding of the journey into God’s heart. But it does tend to separate Father, Jesus the Christ, and Holy Spirit within the Trinity, whereas in our experience they tend to merge in one experience of God.

The Way of Christ, that of being a Christian, requires due attention to the teachings of Christ, especially about love of God and neighbour, held by Christ to be inseparable. Christ directs us to the worship of God, to the building of community, to an evidential interest in those on the margins of life, and to a consistent departure from a healthy self-interest to demonstrate a passionate concern for those who suffer in all walks of life. Christ asks for faith in him as the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. He believed that he held the deep truths of God in himself, not only in his heart and mind, but also by his example in ministry and in his teaching. One day at Calvary he showed us the heart of humanity before God, and in his Resurrection he showed us the heart of God for humanity. Come, let us “live the Christian Way of life”.

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

---

### THIS WEEK:

Dec. 19, Monday.

- Finance Meeting. 5:30pm. Office
- Vestry Meeting. 6:30pm. Rectory

Dec. 20, Tuesday.

- Bible Study. 10:00am
- Group Discussion @ the Tutton's [ 3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village]. 7:30pm

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** *No classes on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.*

**Resumes on Jan. 8.**

### CHRISTMAS 2011

**Dec. 24, Saturday.**

- Family Service, 4:00pm
- Midnight Service, 10:30pm

**Dec. 25, Sunday.**

- Holy Eucharist, 10:00am