

# TRINITY NEWS

## Pentecost 26 The Imperishable Jewel of a Quiet Spirit

Advent introduces us to the second coming Christ before his Advent of Bethlehem. The set Gospel passage at Luke 21:5-19 is full of images about the Last Day.

When we read of the Signs of the End Time we are acutely aware that these words are about us. These are not only a prophecy about the future. They describe what is happening right now.

We are told “not to be terrified” and that we will be given “a mouth of wisdom” which our adversaries “will not be able to withstand”.

There is also reassuring counsel to “settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will say in response”. This is a counsel that encourages great trust. We see in the devastation south of here how our daily round can suddenly dissolve into confusion, doubt and fear. The world literally can crumble around us and we are left here searching the corners of our minds for anything that might reassure us.

Jesus spoke prophetic words that dropped into the concerns of his own day and projected the concerns of the present moment into the future. When we dig deeply into any current human situation we will take from it insights that apply to other situations.

This is also true of our own persons and identity. I have received word from Janet, a priest I ordained 15 years ago, that she would resign from parish ministry in February. I wrote to her straight away to comfort her heart. There is always more to such matters than meets the eye. A simplistic approach that reacts rather than responding with non-intrusive care is not good enough. I was the Dean of the Cathedral in Sale, south-eastern Victoria, when I met Janet as a parishioner. I admired her forthright approach but I didn't know quite how to respond to it. This is what I wrote to her: “When I first met you at the Cathedral I didn't know what to make of your forthright approach. But one day I saw a foetus inside you that was you. It made me realise that one day you would have a great deal of compassion to share from the huge sensitivity that was inherent in the experience of the hidden child. I suddenly felt nothing but care for you and that has remained ever since.”

It is in concrete situations and the stark realities of human complexities that we can best prepare for and learn about the future. Reading Tarot cards or consulting fortune tellers will not do it. They are illusory tricks that jest with our real needs.

The world crumbles, the foundations shake but deep within is the safest place on earth, the **“incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet Spirit which is very precious in the sight of God”** (1 Peter 3:4). It was Brother Lawrence who taught us to honour God in every moment, no matter what we are doing. Thomas R Kelly of the Quakers was spoken of as the Brother Lawrence of his time. The Quakers speak of the Real Presence of God deep in the sub-strata of our being in much the same way as Roman Catholics speak of the real presence of Christ in the Mass. It is a real presence for both traditions, diverse though they are, and the Quaker saint Thomas Kelly made the connection in his writings. We use the white light in the church to designate the Reserved Sacrament, the Bread and Wine Reserved after the Eucharist. But for the Quakers the white light is the light of God himself and the real presence is in the sacred chapel of the soul. The things that we treasure might slip from our sight, but the Real Presence remains.

As Kelly says, “The paradox of true mysticism is that individual experience leads to social passion, that the nonuseful engenders the greatest utility. If we seek the essential Gospel we must find it most deeply rooted in the mystic way. Love of God and love of neighbour are not two commandments but one.” Christ fused them together and they should never be separated.

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

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## **THIS WEEK:**

### ***Nov. 18 (Monday).***

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

### ***Nov. 20 (Wednesday).***

- Bible Study, 10:00am

### ***Nov. 21(Thursday).***

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

### ***Nov. 23(Saturday).***

- Pageant rehearsal

## **COMING UP:**

### **November 24. Christ the King.**

- Stewardship Sunday (7:30 & 9:30)
- Confirmation (9:30 service)
- **Joint Ecumenical Thanksgiving** service @ Union Church Manila, 6:30pm.

## **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:**

Christmas is fast approaching and with that comes our Annual Christmas Pageant. Children & teens are welcome to participate. A sign up form is posted on the board by the Parish Office. Rehearsal started yesterday and will continue every weekend thereafter until 24th December.

## **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

Isaiah 61:1-3; Psalm 46; Romans 12:1-8; John 14:15-21