

# TRINITY NEWS

## Pentecost II Brokenness Reassembled and Refreshed

The bread is broken in the Eucharist. Christ was broken at the Cross. The priest consumes the fragments of bread left over after the Holy Communion. The fragments represent the brokenness of Christ and our brokenness drawn together. We share his brokenness and he shares ours through of the remembering aspect of the Holy Spirit in the Eucharist.

Brokenness can be inflicted on us by others or it can be inflicted upon ourselves by our recalled thoughts and emotions; and especially moments of gravity in our life in which we are key participants.

**O God, you know my folly, the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you. Let not those who hope in you be put to shame because of me, O Lord God of hosts; do not let those who seek you be dishonoured because of me, O God of Israel (Psalm 69:5-6).**

It is part of the stark realism of our belief that nothing can be hidden from the gaze of God.

“Folly” has a note of foolishness about it, whether by word, deed or loose and distracting thoughts. “Wrongs” are intentional or unintentional, and who knows the difference at times? What we do and what we say must not destroy the hope of another in God or dishonour them in any way. Bonhoeffer taught that all individuals in Christian communities should take a vow not to say anything **in secret** against anyone. We must speak personally face the face and even strongly, but never in secret. It would have been wonderful to have received this teaching and what follows earlier in one’s life: “Often we combat our evil thoughts most effectively if we absolutely refuse to allow them to be verbalised. It is certain that the spirit of self-justification can only be overcome by the spirit of Grace; it is just as certain that the individual judgemental thought can be limited and suppressed by never allowing it to be spoken except in the confession of sin. Those who keep their tongue-in-check control both spirit and body” (James 3:3-10). I have come across unkind talk in every Christian community that I have served, and I have observed it in the wider community. But I’ve come across very little that is maliciously hurtful. It is usually not about matters of justice or honour or dignity or

detestation for those who rape women and segregate them from men as targets of oppression. In some societies it is even less likely to be about the absolute protection of children from the abuse by those who lower themselves into the deepest pits of human putrefaction.

It is more likely to be moralising about the private lives of individuals. This is inevitably tainted with hypocrisy, because Christ taught that not one of us is exempt from his censure of those whose sexual fantasies about others are potentially damaging to their own mental and spiritual health. Moral discipline, YES. But NO to uninformed judgements.

Brokenness comes in many forms. I have felt broken this week for the first time in many years. I sat in a corner with my face soaked in tears. It was considered “sooky” or “sissy” when I was a boy for any boy or man to cry at all. That was for girls and women. It was an awful teaching because we all need to cry sometime. It will make us sick if we cannot express deep hurts, especially when they are prolonged. If you consider it improper for a priest or a bishop to be broken, then go to Gethsemane and see the brokenness of Christ there. Mine came from another world, not my world with you, but the problem with brokenness is that the person experiencing it does not know if they will ever recover from it. I pray for you every day. Please pray for me. After all, brokenness is something that we all share at one time or another. One day we will be broken in death and be ‘reassembled’ and renewed by the same “Spirit of Jesus” that blesses bread and wine and welcomes us to Holy Communion.

Bishop Arthur Jones

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## **THIS WEEK:**

### **June 25, Wednesday.**

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Discussion Group, 7:30pm, Parish Office.

### **June 26, Thursday.**

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

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

Isaiah 2:10-17; Psalm 89; Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 10:34-42

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