

TRINITY NEWS

Easter V What Do We Bring? How Do we Live? What Legacy Do We leave?

For we brought nothing into the world, and we can carry nothing out of it -

1 Timothy 6:7

This is true, but as for most parts of the scriptures and indeed of our lives, the surface meaning does not tell the whole story. We brought the miracle that we are in the way our bodies function and in their coherence of everything that makes us a human being. We brought a new identity into the world. We have to shape ourselves if we are to become what we are destined to be if we live out the agenda in heaven that is written for all of us. We bring an interior world that does not belong to anyone else and cannot be owned by anyone else. Even if we allow somebody into our inner world they will never be able to fully explore it or to understand some of its hidden parts. We are the only ones who will be ever be able to fully explore and indeed develop our inner world.

We bring who we are to every moment of our lives and we take from it what we have become. We have an internal video of all that has ever happened in our life in our subconscious. It is also embedded in much nearer recalls in memory of what is actually real for us.

We take all of this with us at the end of our journey in the ethos of this world. We live and breathe and have our being and we soak up what it means to be **fully alive** in the words of Irenaeus, a great early Christian thinker. We bring our faith and our experiences and everything that goes with our history. We bring its deepest loves and its deepest resentments and we bring a lot that is in between. It is also shaped by others and the circumstances which we encounter in our journey.

How do we live? The sun is always setting on our brief lifetime. May we live well and die well, unafraid at the last despite all our earlier fears. May we inscribe the beauty of the images of the earth and sky as indelible memories in our soul, never to be forgotten. Every morning God show us the light of his creation. God made us to be inspired by an inner light to promote peace and justice and love in the world. Let us remember the unforgettable signs and acts of human love that we have seen on the road of our journey. Let us treasure them and remember and remember.

What legacy do we leave?

The greatest legacy that we leave is in our children and grandchildren and what others have learned from our life and our distinctive expression of it. It is said that a family line continues in the name of the son and his sons. But a

woman has a family line herself in that her children live on after her. The use of both surnames now increases and makes the point of dual inheritance, whatever the name This week we re-called Gabriel Dimanche. He died two years ago. His was one of those lives that people learn a lot from in many ways. He knew how to stay calm when others were in a rage or deeply upset about something around him. His early training as a Catholic priest left him with the capacity to analyse everything and to write it all down in a tight analysis that could cover a whole lecture or many pages of books in a few lines. He didn't need a recorder or scanner to know what had been said in a lecture or what he had read in a book. He was always slightly detached from the agendas of others and no one ever owned him or his very refined mind. He was not swayed by other people's opinions and his ethical teaching was carefully thought through and delivered with precision, compassion and care. It also left space for people to be themselves and to be content with that identity.

What will people learn from our lives? If we are super-conscious about what we have become, they will learn nothing because we will get in the way with our own superimposed persona. I suspect that what they learn from us will not always be expressed. It will come from chance moments and gems of character and the shining words that light up our gaze, and acts of kindness that we have done that others may never notice. If we are people of faith they will learn from our lives and not from our attendance at church. But if we do attend at church they will expect us to live up to its expectations about honour and dignity and self-worth. We must enlarge our capacity to love God without using God as a prop for a way of dominating any person that we might ever meet. The life of a truly decent and loving and hopeful and gracious person always has an effect on other people's lives and such a life is never forgotten on the earth in all the generations. It will still have its lasting characteristics in a tiny child yet to be born in the next century or more.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday, May 6

- Bible study, 10 a.m.
- Group discussion, 7:30pm, Parish office.

Thursday, May 7.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Acts 11:19-30; Psalm 33; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:9-17