

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost 15

Writing a Journal as Autobiographical Notes Introduction

I grew up in the Australian bush and my earliest remembrances are of being a lonely child. I was raised in a poor but loving family though with the kind of Victorian strictness that still hung over into many families at that stage. I have always had the feeling of being out of place though in the end I would become a bishop and be immersed in public life for over 50 years. I became enchanted early in my life with the stranger from Galilee. I was attracted by the fact that he could not be fully known, as I felt that I was not fully known by any one. My mother came closest in my early life and I've always held her in huge regard, not without some knowledge of her flaws and foibles. She was also aware of mine. It is the exploration of feeling out of place and feeling lonely through an already long life that I want to share through the eyes of the boy who grew up in the little town of Warren in New South Wales Australia. It was just as World War II got into stride and fear struck the land as men in khaki slouch hats went to war without knowing what it was all about except loyalty to the Crown and a sense of adventure in foreign lands. Some courageous women also enlisted and they had the additional challenge of carving out a place for themselves in what was essentially a man's world in terms of legal power and government. When I started making journal notes about my early life I became

strongly aware of how much my original environment had affected my entire world view. Our deepest reflections are based on influences that cannot be erased because they have taken hold as permanent aspects of our identity. It would tear us apart to let them go.

When I read the Gospels for the first time apart from hearing them in the Church, I was taken with the way in which the writers told their own stories, in telling the story of Jesus, though I realized that they had used sources. All of the Gospel writers tell us a good deal about themselves when they are telling the story of Jesus. They are like all of us when we write notes in a journal about our own life. As believers in the vulnerable humanity of Jesus and his luminous connection to God, their lives were intertwined with their telling of his story. It was also in part their story as it is with us.

The vast open spaces of the western plains of New South Wales shaped my early notions of Jesus and the spirituality that gathered around him for me. When we as believers tell his story we are also telling our story. I am recasting my autobiography and calling it **The Lonely Boy and the Lonely God**. What would you call your autobiography? Mine reflects vast lonely spaces and the sometimes lonely journey as I see it of the Christ. He was "the man for others" and he tells us little about himself. That was left to others to say and write. We all want to tell our story if we can find someone to listen.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Group discussion, 7:30pm, Parish office

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1;
Philemon 1-20; Luke 14:25-33



NEXT WEEK!

(9:15 a.m.)

Parents are asked to register their children today. Forms are available at the church entrance.