

TRINITY NEWS

Advent I Things that Come and Go in the Dark Nights of the Soul

Advent means "a time of coming into being". It also recalls the things that are past, because we can never think about the future without making contact with the past and being immersed in the most sane moments of the present. One of the surest measures of our sanity is that we are capable in our more self-defining moments of the capacity to know what we should not engage in or let trouble us unduly. Today I have spoken to my father. You may think that somewhat strange when I say that he died in 1975 in his early 60s. It is of course not a mark of insanity to speak to the departed. I do not mean seances which can be mind-blowing in seeking assurances from beyond the grave. The saints have always spoken to the departed because they could not tell the difference between speaking to someone in this life and speaking to them beyond this life. They saw it as one life. They also did not distinguish between praying and speaking in ordinary conversation except when they became more technical about prayer. We pray to Jesus all the time and humanly speaking he is no longer alive on earth except that his transformed humanity is held in the memory of God. I'm also aware that nothing that has ever happened to us, or been said to us or by us has ever been erased from our unconscious, the memory card if you like marked "soul." We are the original computer. I can see the intellectual duststorm rising to revoke such a statement! But if you read the New Testament carefully you will note immediately how often it refers to what God knows about us. This is also evident in the prophets of Israel and especially in the prophetic book of Isaiah. We are after all the Creator's handiwork!

I really spoke to my father today. I told him that I was still sad that he was not able to fulfil in his life his many gifts and his capacity to be so creative. I was sorry about things that had hurt him personally in his journey and made him feel unwanted at times. I told him that I could have been a better son, that I'd lost him too soon and still missed him. I did not listen for a response because I pray to the Spirit of Jesus to bring to mind his many words of advice to me when he was still with us. I believe that Spirit facilitates the replay from my own unconscious or from being held in the memory of God for reasons that I do not know. Such is our blindness and our light in such matters. Never stop speaking to those who still hold your heart in the 'hand' of love entrusted to the Universal Human who never ceases to embrace us. He too has his own advice for us.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

HOLIDAY. Office closed

♦ Group discussion, 7:30pm, Rectory

Thursday.

♦ Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 11:1-10;

Psalms 72

Romans 15:4-13;

Matthew 3:1-12
