

Meaning of life and death

Life and death: two words that contain the whole of our experience. We are born, we live and then we die. Our life may be brief and unhappy, plagued by suffering and pain, or our life may be long and rich, filled with many good things.

An 8th century Benedictine monk named Bede wrote that life was like a sparrow flying out of the darkness into a fire-lit hall through a window. In a moment, the bird flies out the other side into the unknown.

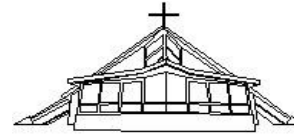
Unique among all the creatures of the earth, we humans are burdened with an awareness of our death. This awareness causes us to wonder about the meaning of our life. So, imagine a new angel in some far-flung heavenly world being apprenticed to a veteran. The seasoned angel tells the many stories of the universe, most of which would be incomprehensible to us, stories of such spiritual magnitude and wonder that our understanding would be much like that of the family pet gazing up, uncomprehending, from the feet of his master who tells of some strange rumour overheard on the bus ride home.

Without warning, the angel's story reaches the tiniest of fragments of human history: the life of a single man. He lived and died. He worked, wondered, prayed, hoped, and suffered, just like anyone else. But wait, there's more. "How can there be more," the new angel asks. "The tomb of this crucified man," the storyteller says, "was empty." Now, suddenly, these angels are awestruck, unable to comprehend the boundless magnitude of the story's significance.

What is the meaning of life and death? Jesus Christ holds the answer. Maybe even more remarkable than that is the fact that you too hold the answer. Your life, Christian believer, is "hidden with Christ in God." And when the truth about his story is finally revealed in its unfathomable glory, "you too will also be revealed in all your glory with him." Easter Day's task is to wonder at this, to celebrate it and to give thanks!

W Chris Hackett © Redemptorists 2019

Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish



Fr Richard Ross PP

Fr Fidelis Udousoro

2 Alma St, Bellerive.

PO Box 987, Rosny Park, 7018

Phone 6245 0501

Email: bellerive@aohtas.org.au



Second Sunday of Easter Year C

28th April 2019

Today's Reading: Acts 5:12-16;
Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19;
John 20:19-31



Next Sunday's Readings:
Third Sunday of Easter Year C
Acts 5:27-32, 40-41; Apocalypse
5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Weekend Mass times:

Saturday 6:00pm Vigil Lindisfarne,
Sunday 8.30 am John Paul II
10.30 am, 6:00pm

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 12noon Corpus Christi Bellerive
Thursday 10:00am John Paul 11 Rokeby
Friday 9:30am Corpus Christi Bellerive

Dear Parish Family,

More horrors have unfolded in our world this week, with 359 people killed across Sri Lanka in suicide bombings at churches over Easter. This reminds us once more of the changing face of violence and terror in our world today. As we marked ANZAC Day in Australia this week, we continue to pray for peace and to work towards understanding and respect for difference in our world.

Extremist ideology masquerading as religion is abhorrent and has no place in civilized society. Ideology in any form is blinkered, dishonest, manipulative and an abuse of power. People driven by ideology are often overly focused on rules and have little room in their hearts for love. In contrast, I read these lines during the week:

“The Good News of the Gospel is that while everyone else is pressuring you into behavioral conformity, God meets you exactly where you are and travels the rugged road with you... so that faith is not a grid of morality, but an adventure of unfolding life with the relentless lover of our souls.” (J.S.Park)

With that freedom and joy in our hearts may our lives and attitudes to others and to that which is “other” be open, respectful and similarly freeing.

Have a great week!

Fr Richard

OLD VIRGILIANS The next OVA Luncheon will be held at SVC Austins Ferry campus on Tuesday, 30th April, 2019, commencing 12.30pm. A two course meal plus drinks provided for \$30. All Old Virgilians and friends welcome. Please notify your attendance to the College: email: admin@stvirgils.tas.edu.au or 6249 6555

Catholic bishops' federal election statement. *The bishops call for respect in public debate, share Catholic social teaching and detail some key issues to reflect on before you vote. “Politics in service of peace: a statement by the Catholic bishops of Australia for the 2019 federal election” can be found at www.catholic.org.au*

DIVINE MERCY Chaplet will be recited at 2pm Sunday 28th April at St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart. See notice board for more details

FR CHRIS HOPE 2019 PRESENTATION:

"Unless a grain of wheat fall into the earth and dies...." 10am - 12noon Monday 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th May The content will be about The Passion Story which is the first part of the Gospel narrative to be formed. We will examine the accounts of the last days of Jesus in the Gospels, noting their similarities and differences and how they came to be incorporated into the texts we have today. The talks run over 4 weeks and will take place at Maryknoll Retreat Centre, 15 Home Ave Blackmans Bay. For more information please contact Sr Margaret Henderson RSM on 0418 366 923. A donation of \$10 per session is recommended.

GRACEFEST: Joy, Faith, Music, Fellowship, Talks, Discussion, Prayer for under 35's. Featuring Fr. Rob Galea– Thursday 9th May 5:30-8:00pm St Mary's College (entry from Brisbane Street) Entry is free but registration is essential: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gracefest-with-fr-rob-galea-tickets-59416014900>

“Summer in the Forest” 6 pm Wednesday 22 May at the State Cinema, North Hobart L'Arche Beni-Abbes, Hobart, is very excited to announce the screening of “Summer in the Forest”, a beautiful film about L'Arche and Jean Vanier. It will be followed by a special “Q&A” session about L'Arche. A short film “On my Own?” that was made in Hobart will also be screened. Jean Vanier founded L'Arche (The Ark) in France in 1964 and there are now communities in 38 countries, where people with and without intellectual disabilities share their lives together. The Hobart community started in 1982 in the (then) New Town Parish. Tickets are \$26 each and MUST be pre-booked through www.summerintheforest.com.au Any enquiries regarding the film or ticketing arrangements can be directed to John Coleman on 0401 489 728. Tickets are not available at the cinema. Tickets are limited so please get in quick! Many thanks, Claire (wearing my L'Arche hat)

SACRED HEART OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION are holding their Annual Reunion on Sunday 5th May 2019 at Riverfront Hotel, Rosetta. A 2course meal, cost \$17. Bookings to Kathryn Darvell on 62289375 by 29th April.