

RAINBOW CONNECTION

Anglican Cursillo Tasmania

December 2020

A Reflection from the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Rev Lee Weissel

Now many (the crowd) saw them going (Jesus and the disciples) and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.
Mark 6: 33-34

With the year coming to an end and Advent bringing us to Christmas, there still seems like there is so much to be done, especially since the enforced separation of Covid. The signs of fatigue can happen. While there is much contentment at having jobs completed well, there is the associated tiredness. With regular demands still present it can be tempting to shut off from the needs of others. In the Gospel written by Mark at the start of the story known as the feeding of the five thousand we see just such an experience. Mark tells us that the apostles after their experience of going out and sharing with others about the kingdom of God they have returned content but also tired. Jesus, filled with understanding, wants to give them some relief; and so he takes them away to a quiet place (deserted) where they can rest for a while, and recover. But the passage then tells us 'that many (a crowd) saw them going and knew... and got there ahead of them'.

No one would have blamed Jesus and the disciples for being frustrated, but what we see in this passage is that the writer Mark offers to us the image of Jesus of singular intensity. It is an image of one really seeing the crowd with his eyes and also gathering the sentiments of his heart. Mark tells us that as Jesus landed he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

There are three verbs in this evocative picture: to see, to have compassion and to teach. These are what we can say are the verbs of the Shepherd.

The first and second verbs, to see and have compassion are found together in the attitude of Jesus. His gaze is not that of an inquisitive investigator or an uninterested recorder. He always gazes with the 'eyes of the heart', he truly sees them as he truly sees us. The two verbs, to see and to have compassion, configure Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In this image we get a glimpse that his compassion too is not merely a human feeling but is the deep motion of the Messiah in whom God's tenderness is made flesh.

From this tenderness is born Jesus' wish to nourish the crowd with the bread of his word, that is to teach the word of God to the people. Jesus sees us, Jesus has compassion on us and Jesus teaches us. It is this word that calls us to come along side and find our true rest in Him.

Wherever you are now, know that there is one who truly sees you as you are, and he is waiting to welcome you.

De Colores!



A Message from Ruth Thomas, our DLD

De Colores Everyone,

2020 has been a year of heartache and worry for some. It certainly has been a year of change! You may have heard comments like “Roll on 2021. It has got to be a better year”. Through all the changes we have an anchor holding us fast to the love of God. As it says in the Passion Translation of Hebrews 6:19 “We have this certain hope like a strong, unbreakable anchor holding our souls to God himself. Our anchor of hope is fastened to the mercy seat which sits in the heavenly realm beyond the sacred threshold.”

One of the highlights on my year was the trip David and I took to Flinders Island where we caught up with the Cursillistas living there. All being well, we may have the Very Northern Ultreya on Flinders sometime in 2021. Another joy was the Southern Regional Ultreya at Lindisfarne Anglican on Nov 7th. It was a time of worshipping God and sharing our Christian journey together.

Preparation has started for Regional Ultreyas for the early part of 2021. More information will be published when details are finalised. May each gathering confirm our joy in being together and united in our love of God.

Ultreya from Ruth Thomas DLD

Southern Regional Ultreya

“With God All things are Possible” Matthew 19:26

Yes it was possible thanks to the great Cursillo Team work and effort from the faithful servants at Lindisfarne Anglican to meet together on the first Saturday afternoon in November.

At the Ultreya there were many representatives from various Southern parishes and a few from up North too. We had the opportunity to sing together and share this special time in worship and sharing.

Our witness speaker Rev. Lee Weissel gave his talk based on the reading from Jonah (Ch.2:1- 10). Lee spoke about both his relationship with God, his past work in setting up Anglican schools in N.S.W. and his present role as Chaplain at The Hutchins School. He spoke of fleeing from God and being challenged in his new position, like Jonah being thrown overboard, by the effects of Covid as the school lessons went online. He felt both challenged and blessed by God. The message that God gave to him as well as those to whom he works and witnesses, both staff and students, essentially is the Gospel given to all. To come to repent of our sins and acknowledge the life that Jesus continually gives to us the People of God. Lee’s talk was both entertaining yet gave us all food for thought and after the talk the Reverend Lesley Borowitzka (the Spiritual Advisor for the day) gave her response and we had more to reflect upon.

We met for Floating Group Reunions in both the Hall and the Church. This was a great opportunity for personal sharing, prayer and a great blessing to be able to gather.

The day finished with more singing, the announcements, closing Prayers and a Blessing.



Lee giving his witness talk

