



The Anglican Herald

The Anglican Catholic Church in Western Australia

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Just a bunch of men and women
Trying to clear up the mess,
While being part of the mess
ourselves.

Foxtel TV – DCI Banks

I thought the above comment gave an accurate view of the world in which we live. We live in a world of confusion, frustration, conflict, doubt and a lack of fulfilment. In short, the world is in a mess.

Modern technology allows us to view events as they are happening in just about any location on the planet. When we turn on the TV news we note the headline stories are generally about some form of conflict. We are transported to places where forces are engaged in live military action. We might move then to witness civil riots in other countries. As we move through the news programme we will also come across inspiring stories of people trying to solve difficult problems in all sorts of ways. We can observe the bravery of people who put themselves in danger to save other persons and animals. The news presents to us a kaleidoscope of human activity and emotion.

In reality what we are seeing are our frustrating attempts to keep the fine balance needed to maintain some sort of relationship between

the suggested ways offered to bring harmony between and within the nations of the world.

The fine balance in relationships does not only involve nations, it is the real life experience of individuals – people just like you and me.

While there are many things that occur in the world over which we have no control, most of the problems and difficulties we face are of our own creation. We never seem to really find the right balance.

And why is this so?

While there are many individuals, organizations and campaigns doing all they can to bring peace and harmony they are going about it in the wrong way. In the main they are relying on their own abilities to solve the issues we are faced with. We are indeed –

**Just a bunch of men and women
Trying to clear up the mess
While being part of the mess ourselves**

The fact is we cannot achieve peace and harmony on our own, nor are we meant to. We are created beings and we are designed to live in both a relationship and partnership with our creator – God. Furthermore, that relationship must be based on love because God is Love and we must allow that love to inform all our activity and decision making.

It is often said that we cannot love other people if we do not love ourselves. I believe this to be true but I also believe that along with loving ourselves we must also love God.

**We will truly be in love with ourselves
When we are with God and in love with God**

When we have this loving relationship with God we will find fulfilment in our lives. If all humanity had this relationship with God, all doubt, confusion, frustration and conflict would be done away with and the world could live in peace and harmony.

This is why it is so important to proclaim the Gospel and spread the Good News about the salvation offered to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

And this is the Mission of the Church

As members of the Church
We work in partnership
with God

When we read the Bible we are reading about God's relationship with His creation, particularly with Man and Woman. But we should clearly see that the Bible is not only about relationship it is also about partnership.

From the time of God's calling of Abraham we see God entering into a partnership with all those He has called. The Old Testament Patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob partnered with God to establish the family through which God would bring forth salvation for the whole world.

When we read of the lives of the prophets, priests and kings in the Old Testament we see they are working in partnership with God. It is true that not all the partnerships were successful; some of those who God had called fell by the wayside and in fact opposed God. However God kept on inviting people into partnership so that His purposes would be achieved.

In the Gospels and the Epistles we see this practice continuing. Jesus called the disciples to work in partnership with Him as He went from place to place preaching to the crowds and healing the sick. The establishment of the Church came into being through a partnership between the Holy Spirit, the Apostles and the faithful gathered together. We read of the Apostles, St Paul and others spreading the Good News of the Gospel as they travelled to many places in partnership with and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

You and I are members of this same Apostolic Church

At our Baptism we became something we were not before - *Children of God, Members of Christ and Inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven.* We also received the gift of the Holy Spirit. At our Confirmation we were given the necessary grace to take responsibility for our own Christian Faith. Once again at both our Baptism and Confirmation we became partners with God as He gave us His grace and the Holy Spirit to take our part in the Mission that Jesus gave to His Church.

Jesus has promised to be with us to the end of the world. We can trust Him to keep His promises. When our faith is challenged Jesus has promised to provide what is necessary to defend our faith, even giving us the words to say. *See Luke 12.8-12 and 21.10-18.*

We should be aware by now that the Christian Faith is under great persecution. Everywhere you turn the Church is being challenged. We are being encouraged to say 'happy holidays' rather than 'merry Christmas'. There are fewer and fewer Christmas decorations depicting the Nativity or reference to any Christian celebration. During this difficult time for the Faith it is important for believers to stand strong in the knowledge that in God's good time He will bring all things under subjection to Jesus our Lord. This is God's promise.

Partners
in the
Gospel

This is our
Faith
That God
became Man
and dwelt

among us, and we beheld His
glory, full of grace and truth