

Vicar's Pastoral Letter

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Subject : Trust that what God is doing is right

Hello brothers and sisters in Christ,

What a fantastic few months of celebration we have all had in our Church! We celebrated new birth at Christmas with carols and candles and as much joy and light that we can get in those cold, short and dark December days. Then at Easter rejoicing really gets going as we celebrate Christ's resurrection with exhilarating hymns, bright flowers, choral processions and rousing services!

So, what now? Do we drift back to soporific routine and meander through our Christian life, paying lip service to God until we can have a bit of a knees up at the church fete?

I do hope not because in just a few days time we have a truly fantastic event to celebrate and put smiles on our faces. We celebrate the Ascension of Jesus. Information about this event is quite sparse, in fact the only information we have is at the end of Luke's gospel and his writings in the first chapter of Acts. The collect for the Ascension says; "we believe in the ascension of Christ so that WE IN HEART AND MIND MAY ALSO ASCEND". If we say those words AND believe them then if that is not inspirational and exciting to us then we must be very dull people indeed. What did the ascension mean to the disciples and should still mean to us today? Surely that Jesus returned to glory, so that the Holy Spirit could be sent to earth at Pentecost, to live on in the hearts of Christians all over the world. This is the real miracle of the ascension! The disciples, through the intervention of God and his Son had received the blessing of the Holy Spirit and that this time they were not devastated by the loss of their dear friend but returned to Jerusalem absolutely infused with great joy, great courage and great determination to step forward in the faith and love of Christ and spread his word in establishing HIS CHURCH here on earth. That was surely resurrection inspired courage!

If there is something that God is saying to any one of us in our parish today that seems hard to understand - perhaps even illogical, unnecessary or unbelievable - if it's coming from God it's meant for our own good and the development of his church. If the ascension of Christ tells us anything at all then it is surely to trust that what God is doing is right.

If we let God be God in our lives then we make his business our business and if we develop it in FAITH and JOY then our happiness and that of others in our parish will be also a joy to see.

So brothers and sisters let's all praise together with these inspirational words;

"Come on and celebrate! His gift of love we will celebrate - The Son of God who loved us and gave us life.

Come on and celebrate, celebrate, celebrate and sing, celebrate and sing to the King:

Come on and celebrate, celebrate, celebrate and sing, celebrate and sing to the King!"

Don't forget to smile - God bless you all.

Peter

Peter Fitzjohn

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