The Passion of Jesus and our instinct for fascism


We human beings are anxious animals. To allay this existential anxiety we fabricate worlds – both public and private – where we feel in control. This often involves reducing reality to simple black and white issues. When the fabricated world is threatened our anxiety is awakened. We are then capable of irrational and sometimes violent behaviours. This is our instinct for fascism emerging. This instinct can be observed at work within the many ideologies – from the right and the left – at play in the world today. That includes the Church. The ideologues typically mask the anxiety with righteous, high sounding language. The real issue, however, remains anxiety and the consequent instinct for fascism.

Today is Palm Sunday. We celebrate the revelation of God who is vulnerable: “Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter …” (Isaiah 53:7). We are made in the image and likeness of this God. What does that say about our being human? What might it suggest about how we can deal with our existential anxiety and our instinct for fascism?

“It is in the cross that we see the revelation of what it is that characterises God’s personal being, and so what is also possible for us … the renunciation of existing-for-oneself is our most authentically personal act and so also our most Godlike act” (Rowan Williams, *Wrestling with Angels: Conversations in Modern Theology*, edited by Mike Higton, London: SCM Press, 2007, 14). Knowing, like Jesus, that we are held in the embrace of the Father’s love, will save us from the instinct for fascism.

See www.aquinas-academy.com for background material on the Gospel text.

Fr Michael Whelan SM,
Parish Priest
A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

ALL LOVE COMES FROM GOD…. GOD IS LOVE (1 JOHN 4:7-8)

“As you have been loved into freedom, be in the world in such a way, that God can love others into freedom through you!”

Welcome to our “Spiritual Oasis in the midst of the city”

Bible Study is back! Meeting at 2pm on level 5, 141 Harrington Street each Sunday.

Maundy Thursday: The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral on Holy Thursday. Fr Garry will represent us at that mass and bring back the Holy Oils for the Parish.

Good Friday Collection: The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land takes place on Good Friday. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church and provides welfare assistance in areas such as health, education, employment, housing. Money raised from the collection is used to maintain 74 churches and shrines associate with the life of Jesus.

Enter the Spirit of Holy Week: Join us for the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday (6.00 p.m.), the Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday (3.00 p.m.), and the celebration of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night (6.00 p.m.) The ceremonies themselves provide a rich tapestry of the mystery of Jesus and call us to enter more deeply into the spirit of this special week.

Enjoy the bulletin! You touch you take! ... we also have the E-newsletter!

PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK

Tue, 30 Mar: **Christian Meditation**, Crypt, 12.15 pm - 12.55 pm

Wed, 31 Mar: **Legion of Mary**, level 3, 6.15 pm

RCIA, Crypt, 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Thu, 1 Apr: **Holy Thursday**, Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Washing of the feet, 6.00pm

Rosary in the Crypt, 12.30 pm

ALPHA, Crypt 6.00 - 8.00 pm.

Fri, 2 Apr: **Good Friday**

Stations of the Cross, 11.00am

Passion of the Lord, 3.00pm

Sat, 3 Apr: **Holy Saturday**, Easter Vigil, 6.00pm

Sun, 4 Apr: **Easter Sunday, Yr B**

Bible Study, level 5, 2.00pm.

Francis

“Nowadays, our noblest social instincts can easily be thwarted by self-centred chats that give the impression of being deep relationships. On the contrary, authentic and mature love and true friendship can only take root in hearts open to growth through relationships with others” (Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, #89).
A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 50:4-7 (NRSV)
The servant of the Lord said: "The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. "The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward."I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. "The Lord God helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame." The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Response to the Psalm
R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11 (NRSV)
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God highly exalted him and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel - please refer to the booklet provided for the Passion Of Our Lord.

Film Lectio I - Lion
Marie Biddle RSJ, MA MTH
3 Tuesday mornings, 10am - 12 noon
April 20, 27 & May 4

Song of Songs:
the Mystical Centre of the Bible
Dr Robert Tilley
4 Wednesday mornings,
10am - 12 noon
April 21, 28, May 5, 12

Developing Your Own Spirituality
Unit III Remembering & anticipating, imagining & feeling
Michael Whelan SM PhD & Marie Biddle RSJ MA MTh
4 Thursday evenings 6pm - 8pm
May 6, 13, 20, 27
Repeated
4 Thursday mornings, 10am - 12 noon
June 3, 10, 17, 24

Aristotle on Nature
Rev Dr Andrew Murray SM
4 Tuesday mornings 10am - 12 noon
June 1, 8, 15, 22

For more details regarding courses, bookings or Gospel Notes, visit Aquinas Academy Website Aquinas-academy.com
Level 5, 141 Harrington St, The Rocks, Tel: 02 9247 4651
The kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17.21). From this we learn that by a heart made pure ... we see in our own beauty the image of the godhead ... You have in you the ability to see God. He who formed you put in your being an immense power” [St Gregory of Nyssa, Homilies on the Beatitudes, 6 (PG 44, 1270). Cited by Olivier Clement, The Roots of Christian Mysticism, New City Press, 1995, 237.]

St Patrick’s E-newsletter
Be part of our E-newsletter! www.stpatschurchhill.org for stimulating reading & info!

Electronic Donations: We have two tap machines for electronic donations near the entry to the church. For regular donations from your credit card, please contact the Parish Office.

Sunday First Collection: Support of the Marist Community at St Patrick’s.

Sunday Second Collection: General Parish Expenses and Maintenance.

St Patrick’s Parish Staff
Fr. Michael Whelan, SM
Parish Priest
John Attneave
Sr Marie Biddle, RSJ
Michael Borromeo
Andy Carter
Rita Di Napoli
Br Terry Garrett, SM
Fr. Paul Hachey, SM
Karen Larkman, Asst. PSSO
Fr. Bernard McFadyen, SM
Fr. Peter McMurrich, SM
Sr. Fidelis McTeigue, SM
Helen Nejaim, Sacristan
Mona Redito
Fr Garry Reynolds, SM
Tereza Seric, PSSO
Fr Kevin Stewart, SM
Fr Brian Wilson, SM

The parish of St Patrick’s acknowledges the Cadigal people of the Eora nation as the traditional custodians of this place we now call Sydney.