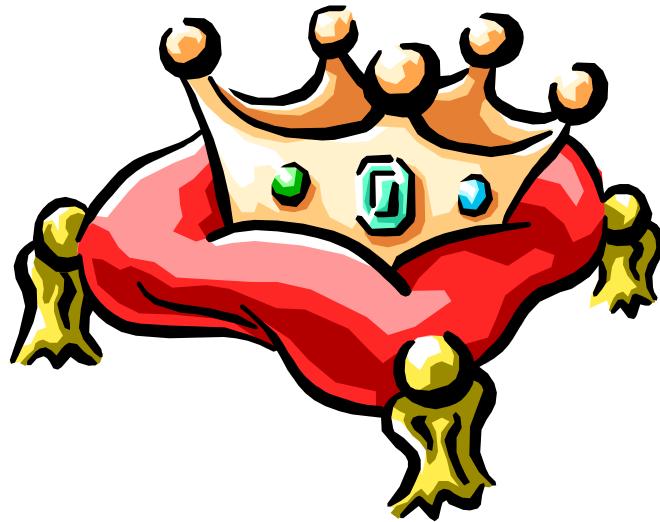


# God's Masterpiece



We are God's masterpiece\*. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

*Ephesians 2.10 [NLT]*

## Week 4 Death and Resurrection

**A Retreat in Daily Life at Queanbeyan & District Anglican Church**

\* The word translated "masterpiece" or "work of art" is used in classical Greek for a work of superb craftsmanship such as making a crown

# You are God's work of art

## Week 4: With Jesus in his Death & Resurrection

During this week we go with Jesus to Calvary and join his followers as they experience his resurrection.

### **Day 1: Luke 23:23-34 Jesus is led away to be crucified**

I sometimes find as I contemplate the cross and the death of Jesus that it is helpful to hold a cross or a crucifix as I pray.

- Silence is important. Listen to the words of Jesus.
- If you are so moved then talk to Jesus. "Why?" "For me?"
- *"Father forgive them..."* Contemplate the love and the compassion.

### **Day 2: Luke 23:34-43 Jesus speaks from the Cross**

- How painful to suffer the insults of religious leaders. Many people have been hurt by religious leaders. Pray with and for the victims - perhaps pray for ourselves. As much as you are able, pray for church leaders and for those who have hurt you; *"Father forgive them..."*
- *"Today you will be with me in paradise."* A criminal is promised total forgiveness. From what do I need to be forgiven? Can I hear the promise, "Today you will be with me..."
- *"Those who come to me I will never turn away."* [John 6.37]

### **Day 3: Luke 23:44-49 The Death of Jesus**

See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine  
That were a present far too small;

Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Isaac Watts 1674-1748*

#### **Day 4: Colossians 1.15-22 The Person and Work of Christ**

- Contemplate who He is - the One who has lived and died - meditate on the person of Jesus who humbled himself and became "*obedient to death*". Perhaps also read: Philippians 2.5-11
- Contemplate the scope of the Work of Christ. Take time to pray the words and phrases that speak to you.
- How then will I live? Having been reconciled to God by the death of Jesus what sort of person am I becoming?

#### **Day 5: Matthew 28:1-10 Jesus is raised from death**

Having followed Jesus in the way of his passion and death, we now rejoice with his followers who experience his resurrection.

- Imagine yourself going with the women to the tomb. We want to honour Jesus our companion and friend in his death.
- Stay with them in their surprise and awe, "*Do not be afraid...*"
- Share their joy as they discover the truth that he is risen. "*He is not here; he has been raised - as he said.*"
- Meet with Jesus and hear his words with joy. "*Peace be with you ... Do not be afraid.*"

#### **Day 6: 1 Corinthians 15.1-58 The Resurrection of Jesus**

- This is a very long reading. Don't try to contemplate it all; rather look at the parts that excite you and experience the joy and hope of the promises of God made present by the resurrection of Jesus.
- Meditate again on v58. "*So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and steady, always enthusiastic about the Lord's work, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.*" Who is God calling me to be? How is God calling me to live? Is there anything that God is calling me to do?

## Notes for our Prayer

- In Week 1 we prayed for the grace to know that we are loved and cared for by God.
- In Week 2 we prayed for a deeper desire to respond to the call of Jesus and to follow him in all I do and say.
- In Week 3 we prayed for the grace to know more of Jesus who suffered and died for me.
- We end this week knowing that he has died for me and for the world; and growing in confidence about who I am called to be and what I am being encouraged to do.

Sometime in the first part of this week you make like to read the Song of the Suffering Servant of God: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12.

### **The Examen: Discerning the Spirit of God**

One of the fruits of this retreat is to help us to be more aware of living as followers of Jesus. As we follow Jesus we will want to know his will for us.

St Ignatius of Loyola encouraged people to practice what he called *The Examen*. Take time to ask two questions: "What am I grateful for today?" "What am I not so grateful for today?" Or "What has given me good energy today?" and "What has sapped my energy today?"

Part of the reality of our humanity is that our attention is continually being sought by the good spirit and the bad spirit. We want to choose God's way. But how do we know which way?

*Bad spirit:* focused on me, quick to judge, impatient, me in control, anxious, fear, guilt, "shoulds and oughts", exaggeration, turmoil, discouragement, despair.

*Good spirit:* open to growth in God's way, on a journey, vulnerability, true desires, balance, gentleness, self-acceptance, peace, hope, love.

### ***End of Retreat Gathering***

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

**3pm - 4.30pm**

**St Matthew's Karabar**