

Health in the Lord and the Blessing of the Holy Spirit.. [Rule of Saint Albert]
Saudavel iha Maromak no grasa Spirtu Santo Nian .. [Regula Sto Alberto]



DEATH, RESURRECTION AND TRANSFORMATION IN THE WORLD... a reflection by Peter Clarke

Peter is a retired geologist, living in Kiama with his wife Mary, a Lay Carmelite. Peter is an active member of the local parish and is passionate about the plight and urgency of caring for our planet Earth.



Each day in our world, beauty is born anew; it rises, transformed, through the storms of history. Human beings arise, time after time, from situations that seemed doomed. "Where all seems to be dead, signs of resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force" (Evangelii Gaudium # 276)¹

Shortly, within the liturgy of our church, we will retell the brutal execution of Jesus some 2000 years ago. Inspired by an awaking of faith and belief, which we retell some forty days later at Pentecost, his followers believe that the truths taught were so powerful, so earth shattering, that Jesus lived on, was resurrected. And that belief, instilled by the Spirit, that lived faith went on to change the world in their time and afterwards.

We can see Easter as a commemoration, as an event that occurred once in history. Or we can see it as something that happens to us and to our world every day. And we can see it, as John saw it in the opening of his "Good News" *..that the Word, the eternal Logos, the Christ, is dying and rising at the heart of the cosmos every moment of every day from the beginning of time and into eternity, from the Alpha to the Omega of completed Incarnation*²

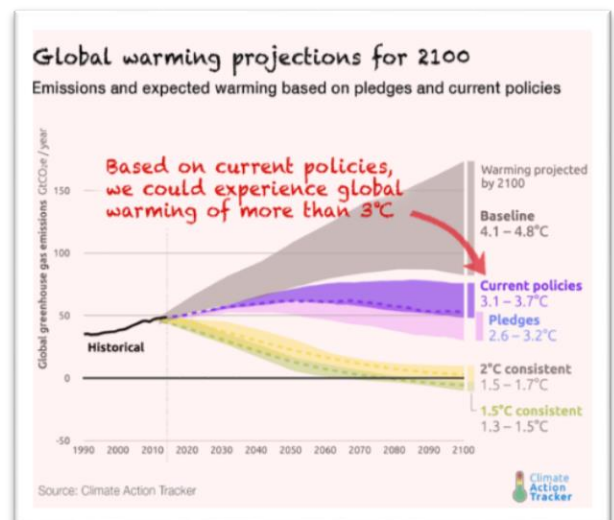
EASTER MONDAY also corresponds this year to **EARTH DAY**, April 22nd. Founded in America in 1970 as a



national day to focus on the environment, Earth Day captured the activism of the anti-war movements. By the end of 1970 the United States Environmental Protection Agency was established. In 1990 Earth Day went international and paved the way for the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Earth Day 2000 and 2010 focused world attention on climate change despite the actions of climate deniers, fossil fuel lobbyists and recalcitrant politicians. Earth day has reached its current status as the largest secular observance in the world, celebrated by more than a billion people every year, and a day of action that changes human behaviour and provokes policy changes.³

The world as we know it is dying! To state just a few facts from the latest IPCC reports, the recent statements of the World Meteorological organisation and reports of surveys on insect species world-wide:

- Current atmospheric loads of greenhouse gases, and current emissions mean we are on track for a 3.5-4.0°C global average temperature rise.



¹ Daniel O’Leary “An astonishing secret” p274 ©Garratt publishing 2018

² As above

³ The history of Earth Day, <https://www.earthday.org>

- The Paris agreement reductions, even if they are kept, are inadequate to achieve temperature rise below 2°C
- We have passed the tipping points to prevent glacier melt in Greenland and Antarctica. Sea level rise displacing at a minimum tens of millions of persons are inevitable. All we can do now is slow the rate of rise.
- We live in the middle of the 6th great global extinction of species. Of great concern is the extinction of insects due to the uncontrolled use of non-selective pesticides. More than 50% of the world's insects are under threat with a consequent threat to world food supplies

Clarissa Pinkola Estes, in a short essay **"You were made for this"** tells us *"My friends, do not lose heart. We were made for these times. I have heard from so many recently who are deeply and properly bewildered. They are concerned about the state of affairs in our world now. Ours is a time of almost daily astonishment and often righteous rage over the latest degradations of what matters most to civilized visionary people.....Yet I urge you, ask you, gentle you, to please not spend your spirit dry by bewailing these difficult times. Especially do not lose hope."*

Righteous rage is expressed in Pope Francis's writings in both *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Laudato Si*. Francis regularly expresses his concern for the poor and his belief that the consequences of the changes in the world will fall most heavily on the millions, even billions of poor who will not have the capacity to adapt. He condemns consumerism and injustice of the rich and powerful. As such, the issues addressed are the most pressing of social justice concerns today.

But there is hope! We see it in rising social awareness in citizens around the world. We see it in the activists prepared to stand in front of the bulldozers. We see it in the writers, poets, musicians, journalists, scientists and so many others who through their words and works are prepared to draw attention to the dangers of "business as usual" With pride we watch our children and grandchildren march in the streets call for action, for transformation. And we have hope.



And sometimes I wonder, am I doing enough? I'm sure that many feel as I do. Make no mistake, as the disciples

learned on that first Pentecost and later, change is painful. Our lifestyles in Australia will be affected; the change needed will cost both emotionally and financially. Shades of St Augustine: I think I sometimes pray "Lord help me to act for change, but don't let it cost"

Again Clarissa Estes writes *"Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good"*⁴

We suffered, are still suffering, a death of trust in our church with the world-wide horror of sexual predation of the young and vulnerable. But we can see the first light of transformation as the veil of secrecy is torn asunder and the light of truth penetrates. We owe thanks to the victims, the investigators, the judges and commentators who shone this light in the dark places and commenced the process of transformation.

Ilia Delio expresses it this way:

*"The reign of God is coming into the world not only through the front doors of a church but increasingly through human hearts outside the doors of a church. How do we know that it is Christ in evolution? Jesus proclaimed YOU WILL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUITS Those who live in Christ bear fruits of love, peace, charity, kindness, forgiveness, compassion and reconciliation"*⁵

So the disciples at Pentecost, imbued by the Spirit, fired by the belief of a risen Christ, continued the transformation of the world. Their message was to change the world to love God and love neighbour. We are called to continue that Transformation through the belief in the Cosmic Christ, the Christ who acted in the beginning, in Jerusalem, and continues to act, through us, today.

Estes continues *"What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing. We know that it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small determined group who will not give up during the first, second or hundredth gale."*

So we continue to support the actions of others, we support the appeals, sign the petitions, join the rallies, speak out when and where we can. We can consider very carefully our voting choices when we elect our government shortly. We continue to pray, meditate, consider, learn and love.

And especially we hope, believe and trust that we can change our community, our church and the world.

Paul, in the 2nd letter to the Corinthians put it:

In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding humankind's faults against them.

⁴ **You were made for this** Clarissa Pinkola Estes

⁵ Ilia Delio *The Emergent Christ* p144, Orbis Books Maryknoll NY 2013

FOR YOUR CALENDAR - APRIL

- 6 April** – International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
- 7 April** – World Health Day
- 11 April** – 1963 Pope John XXIII's encyclical *Pacem in Terris*
- 19 April** – Good Friday
Beginning of Jewish Passover
- 21 April** – **EASTER SUNDAY**
- 22 April** – **International Mother Earth Day**
- 25 April** – ANZAC Day
1945: Opening of First UN Conference with 45 nations present
- 26 April** – 1986 Nuclear accident in Chernobyl, Ukraine
- 28 April** – World Day for Safety and Health at Work
- 29 April** – Day of Remembrance for all victims of chemical Warfare

This year, the official theme for **EARTH DAY** is “**Protect Our Species**” with a special focus on protecting the AMAZON. To celebrate the gift of hope and symbolize our commitment to protecting all creation, let’s take action together.

- plant a tree to celebrate your commitment to protecting forests,
- host an event on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 28, in answer to Pope Francis’ call that “the works of mercy also include care for our common home.”

Make this the year of ‘transformative solutions’ to avert disastrous climate change: UN Deputy Chief

It is within our power to make 2019 the “year of transformative solutions” and “avoid the disastrous effects of climate change”, which threaten ecosystems, the global economy, health and security.

<https://news.un.org/en/news/topic/climate-change>

Catholic Climate Covenant: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

Prayers for Peace

- **Hindu** - Oh God, lead us from the unreal to the Real, from darkness to light, from death to immortality. God’s peace, peace, peace to all.
- **Buddhist** - May all beings everywhere be happy, peaceful, and free.
- **Zoroastrian** - We pray to God that understanding will triumph over ignorance, that generosity will triumph over indifference, that trust will triumph over contempt, and that truth will triumph over falsehood.
- **Jain** - Peace and universal love is the essence of all the teachings. Forgive do I creatures all, and let all creatures forgive me.
- **Confucian** - First there must be order and harmony within your own heart. Only then can there be peace and harmony in the world.
- **Jewish** - Oh come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that we may walk the paths of the Most High. And we will beat our swords into ploughshares and our spears into pruning hooks.
- **Shinto** - We earnestly wish that the wind will soon puff away all the clouds hanging over the tops of the mountains.
- **Native African** - For you are one who does not hesitate to respond to our call, you are the cornerstone of peace.
- **Native American** - Give us the wisdom to teach our children to love, to respect and to be kind to one another that we may grow with peace in mind.
- **Muslim** - Praise be to the Lord of the Universe. Who has created us and made us into tribes and nations that we may know each other, not despise each other.
- **Bahá’í** - Be a breath of life unto the body of humankind a dew upon the human heart, and a fruit upon the tree of humility.
- **Christian** - Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. Blessed be the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the Children of God.
- **Sikh** - Know that we find God when we love, and only that victory endures in consequence of which no one is defeated.

WORDS OF WISDOM

New leadership is needed for new times, but it will not come from finding more wily ways to manipulate the external world. It will come as we who serve and teach and lead find the courage to take an inner journey toward both our shadows and our light—a journey that, faithfully pursued, will take us beyond ourselves to become healers of a wounded world.

Parker J. Palmer

A human being is a part of the whole, called by us, ‘Universe,’ a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest -- a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. Nobody is able to achieve this completely, but the striving for such achievement is in itself a part of the liberation and a foundation for inner security.

Albert Einstein