

There are some significant differences between how people approach Catholic Christian faith today. What differences have you experienced? Perhaps different **attitudes** around attendance at Mass or how people worship; people's openness to encountering Jesus in **personal** ways; our identity as one parish family versus an individual or tribal approach to faith; and certainly, different expectations and understandings around sacrificial giving, lay leadership, engagement, and participation. I wonder which ones **resonated** with you or **challenged** you? May I be so **bold** as to suggest that the ones which challenged you may be **precisely** where God is inviting an opening of heart?

While it's **much** easier to focus on differences because they **grab** our attention and set opinions **flying** left, right and centre, concentrating on what we hold in common is what leads to unity – which is God's will. And really, this is what binds us together in a beautiful way – God's will: something we pray **we** will **choose** to do every time we pray the Lord's prayer: "**Thy** Kingdom come, **Thy Will** be done!" **What**, do our readings today say about this? Well, it's actually pretty clear in our second reading – what does God say through the pen of Paul? [God] wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth."

I'd like to draw out two things in this short sentence: **first**, if we know what God wants – and we do: that **everyone** be saved – what does that mean for us – you and I...? Each person's answer to that question will depend on how we understand the purpose of our baptism – **which is to say**, our participation in the mission of making new disciples, something Jesus entrusted to the baptised. Catholics **can** fall into the trap that **if** they receive Eucharist each

week, they'll be saved and necessarily don't need to do anything else – while others fall for the trap that they don't need to worship on the weekend to be saved. Scripture says, however, that salvation is only found in Jesus' name, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life – we cannot be saved except through knowing, loving and following Jesus... Which brings me to my **second** point. God desires that we come to **full knowledge** of the truth.

The truth is embodied in the person of Jesus – the Word, existing before all time, who became human so that we could know God in human ways. And I'm not **just** talking about the union of Jesus' flesh with ours when we receive Eucharist, but in the human experience of His love, joy and peace. The truth is that we are not saved by what **we** faithfully do, but by coming to full knowledge **of** Jesus. It's no coincidence that the root of the Greek word that St Paul uses for **full knowledge** of the truth, is the same word of Mary in her reply to the Archangel Gabriel, who declared, "Behold, you will conceive bear a son by the Holy Spirit." What was her reply? "How can this be for I **know not** a man?" **This** is the kind of intimacy for which I am boldly casting vision and praying that **every** person in our parish comes to **know**.

Imagine what our congregations will **look** like and **sound** like when we all come to **this** full knowledge. People will discover charisms – gift of Holy Spirit they didn't know they had. People will realise their own part in the Mission Jesus has given us!! When we celebrate Mass, **every** voice will sing for joy and worship with full and open hearts, praising the Lord, **not just** as we sung as our Psalm response today, but continually "[praising] the name of the Lord" (also in our Psalm by the way). Every person who is able will be serving in a disciple-making ministry – and how's **this** for a bold

vision: we'll even need to live stream our Masses into the covered hospitality area with extra seating and a big screen because we're overflowing at every Mass, having become a beacon of hope for all of Caloundra and her surrounding suburbs.

To conclude: as Jesus says in our Gospel, and in the context of our Mission, each one of us are first “trusted in little things” before we are trusted in great things. One of those little things at this time is fundraising for our ducted air conditioning system. As you'll read on the back page of the bulletin today, I'm launching a capital fundraising campaign to pay for the system. This is going to be a major advantage for us because it will create a more comfortable environment **not just** for us, but for those who may not be regular worshippers – for example, those **discerning becoming Catholic** or **coming back to their faith**. Installing this system says something important to people about **our** desire for them. It's my intention to give every person in our three congregations the chance to contribute to this project. To start with, I am asking for those who **may** be in a place to donate \$1000 or more to contact me through the parish office via email. I'm off on holidays for a few weeks starting next weekend, but I would like to speak or meet with each of you personally. At the end of next month, I'll open the campaign for smaller, but no less significant, donations via **a second collection**. Thank you in advance for your support as we come together in this small thing so that together, we will be entrusted with greater things.