



LENT A HAND
Help Anglicare help others this Easter

End of Lent - Reflection

On the journey to Jerusalem where his ultimate act of love and compassion would take place, Jesus asked his followers,

"Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." What is not mentioned is some of the other choice things people were saying about him - blasphemer, false prophet, madman to name just a few. But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter, the Rock, answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Mark 8:27-29.

Peter 'nailed it' but what he could not know was what following the Son of the Living God truly meant. For unconditional love has a price. Compassion has a price. Walking in the loving footsteps of the servant Lord has a price. Perhaps this is why Jesus asks that question - 'Who do you say I am?' As we talk, walk and act in his name we better know who and what is drawing us and leading us to our own expression of his unconditional love. For as Jesus tried to point out to Peter and the others it takes everything - your will and your life. With this type of love there is no half measures. Yet it is this type of love that can change the world. It can certainly change our communities and neighbourhoods.

One of the encouraging and comforting things about walking this path is that no one of us needs to do it in isolation. We each individually must choose our own path. If we choose the path of Jesus it is a life long journey of growing into our 'Christ-likeness'. We surrender our 'small self' (our fears, agendas, assumptions, expectations and all the rest) so that God's love can flow through our words and actions. The goal is, as Paul wrote - "I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2.20) However, as a church, that is the gathered ones who walk this path, we do it together and support each other.

Anglicare, and many other Christian organisations like it, is our collective expression of God's love in us and in our midst. No single one of us can effectively help all those who are homeless and struggling with limited incomes, life crisis and illness of varying kinds. No single one of us can advocate effectively for those who are powerless in the eyes of powerful. No single one of us can effect reconciliation in our communities. We need each other and we need the work of organisations like Anglicare to help us in expressing God's love in the wider community.

As Easter draws closer keep asking that question - Who is Jesus for you?

Let his love and compassion guide you to your answer.

Written by Rev'd Rebecca Newland





End of Lent - Prayer Points

Please continue to pray for the mission and ministry of Anglicare.
Below are some prayer points that may help you in this act of services.

Thank God for our 50 emergency relief staff and volunteers across the region who assist families with support.

Thank God for the schools, organisations and churches who generously donate to provide food relief to families.

Pray that as families prepare for the colder winter months that they would have provision for both warm winter clothing and for school lunches and meals for their children.

Pray for families and individuals struggling with homelessness or housing stress, that they would overcome any feelings of anxiety or shame and reach out for the support they need.

