

Parish Letter – December '24

PEACE...

Previously I've talked about stories and the power they hold. From ancient fables to Jesus's parables, to myths and legends, to current stories the world's press chooses to publish, and I wonder how much humankind is impacted by such words.

In the stillness of each morning before anyone is awake, I search for Peace. I spend time with God, no one else, and I cherish it. Then in just a couple hours the noise of the world and its stories can shatter the peace into tiny shards and like splinters they cause hurt, that hurt can lead very quickly to worry...and I know I'm not alone, am I?

Peace is not something we find under our own directive, because as I describe above our thoughts, feelings and attitudes are so easily influenced by what we hear, see and are informed about, and with social media so easily at our fingertips, we're practically chased down by informants.

Many of us choose to turn attention to the good things coming, holidays, a special social event, a time of celebration – something we can use to mask the difficult things by turning away from them and looking forward to something else, but doing this in my experience simply causes us to hurry our living days too quickly. These moments simply come and go as we hang our hopes on the next, and the next and the next.

Peace is not found in pushing the darkness aside or pretending it's not there. Peace is not found in empty words that we speak to one another when trying to console, that can be like sticking a plaster over an open wound, it helps for a while but then...

So where can peace be found?

Peace is a Person!

His name is JESUS and He came to the world to free us from the things that hold us in their grip.

How? By teaching us his Word, responding to his Word and trusting him for his Word.

I find very little hope in anything other than Jesus's Word these days and therefore, I write these words from my heart to encourage and not discourage!

WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.

Four words spoken as a prophecy about Jesus, four titles given to him as he was born in flesh and blood to the world, for the world.

This Christmas familiarise yourself with the greatest story ever told, The Nativity, the profound gift of Love, the gift of the Son of God to His creation, The Way, The Truth and The Life.

Find your way as the Shepherds, Wise Men and Angels did, because their journeys weren't wasted but rather rewarded, just as yours will be.

Peace be with you all - this Christmas and beyond.

Rev Veronica. x