

SA Catholics for an Evolving Church



An Easter Spirituality 2025

Week 6. Easter Faith. The Easter Experience. Liberation. The freedom of the Spirit.

Change the way we live.

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| 1. Priority of a) the heart's desire and opportunities for good or b) the problem of evil. | |
| 2. Salvation, liberation | Integrity, authentic lives |
| 3. Resurrection – revelation | The truth about life and death |
| 4. Pentecost – power | Potential for transformation |
| 5. Living a worthwhile life | Opting for transformation – care, love, cooperation. |

1. Priority of a) the heart's desire and opportunities for good or b) the problem of evil.

Faith, hope and love determine our priorities, not guilt or repression.

If we are born good, our core desires are good, our natural inclinations are for good, cooperation, care, love, non-violence. Find your deepest desire and name it. This could take a lifetime.

Evil, sin, domination are incapable of being explained intelligently or reasonably. In attempting to do so, we always get to a point where personal or group self-interest and bias dominate and determine behaviour a dead end.

The solution to the problem of evil is found in discovering a higher perspective or viewpoint, beyond purely human living. It requires continuous attention, imbued with faith, hope, and love. It is primarily a solution to be practiced and lived. It is only through that living that we begin to understand. I find it helpful to think of this in terms of learning phases and practice phases. Learning leads to understanding, decision and commitment. Commitment and action lead to clearer understanding, focused action and transformation of ourselves and our world. We move between the two throughout life, with more learning early on and more attention to practice later.

Faith is the knowledge and trust born of being in love with God.

2. Salvation, Liberation Integrity, authentic lives

Salvation is moving beyond or liberation -

From: limited horizons, narrow minds, small worlds, fear of non-acceptance, lack of confidence, uncertain sense of self, precarious connections with others.

To: a strong sense of self, the open horizon of God, confidence, faith in the love of God, awareness of the friendship of the universe, seeing others as friends and colleagues.

Salvation is integrity, authentic living, a better world. Integrity is another name for holiness.

Only love validated by one's own life gets God right. God is revealed in that kind of love. Whether or not we use the language of religious belief is immaterial to salvation for people whose love is demonstrated in their lives. Such people have implicit faith.

3. Resurrection – Revelation: The truth about life and death

The revelation of resurrection is the realisation that life does not end with human death. It is becoming aware of a greater universe of life, a larger reality.

In the aftermath of Jesus' death, his followers led by women experienced an awareness of the larger life he had spoken of. Jesus did not physically come through walls but his followers broke through the walls of their minds and limited horizons. Their eyes were opened and they 'saw'. We usually think in terms of the horizon of our human experience, knowing and activity. Awareness of resurrection and the larger life takes us to a place where there is no perceptible horizon.

Stop thinking about the life beyond death as 'after-life' or 'the here-after'. The larger life is here now – we just need to be aware of it, live it. It is not something that comes into being only when we finish with human living.

The larger, real, universe that we live in includes the perceptible universe and much more. We live in the horizon of God. The meaning of resurrection. We live in a larger universe. Life is much more than human living. It is not just for the future but for now.

4. Pentecost – Strength: Potential for transformation

After experiencing those mind-blowing insights and realisations that Jesus still lived, the small group of his followers remained isolated and directionless. They were apparently sure in the knowledge that Jesus was alive, that his life did not end with his human death but they were still unable to take the next step. They knew there was work to be done – baptise all nations – felt deep peace and forgiveness and sensed the authority of Jesus' presence. But they also waited in anticipation of something further.

In Acts, Luke describes the dramatic effect of the awakening of the Spirit in the disciples, women and men. They were transformed from a secluded group into a vibrant, courageous community with a mission.

5. Living a worthwhile life: Opting for transformation

We live now not just in preparation for a fuller life after human death. We are already living in the real universe – the universe of God. It is through our engagement with the universe which includes our engagements with others and with ourselves that we find the fullness of life

The universe is open to God. If we see that, think it, live it, we can get a sense of 'God's horizon'. In a way, it is like seeing life and the universe, from distant galaxies to our innermost feelings, through God's eyes. The way to do that, since we cannot know God directly is by reflecting on our own deepest authentic desires and hopes, our loving of God and by noticing how God loves us through our friendly environment, human and natural.

Mindfulness is paying attention to your psyche and sensory experience. Stand by what you know and your values. Work out what is worthwhile and commit to it. Love till you find yourself in love.