



Vox Episcopi – The Voice of the Bishop

23 February 2023

Just the other day I heard someone parroting the tired old line that we have to become a “new Church”.

This monotonous tune included the call to cast off acts of devotion and piety that have held Catholic Christians steady in the faith for generations.

Our vocation is not to “become a new Church”, it is to be faithful to our baptism which calls us into communion with God and with others. Rather our vocation and mission as priests, teachers, parents, families, and witnesses of God’s love and mercy, is to probe the mystery of a relationship with God, which is made possible through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is not a “new” Church that is needed but a faithful and renewed one. The People of God – priests and people – all the baptised, living life to the full in the Spirit of God.

My sisters and brothers, the holy season of Lent provides us with many opportunities to embrace and live life in the Spirit by turning away from sin and believing in the Good News.

What we do in Lent will hopefully impact upon who we are for the rest of the year.

Perhaps we can rebuild some of our Lenten practices from the past, look at new ways of fasting and penance, consider works of mercy that brings our communities of faith together to work for peace and justice, embrace our [Lenten Program](#) in Broken Bay with family and friends to open pathways for genuine conversion to Christ.

My dear people, the invitation this Lent is not one to replant ideals and practices from the past into our time. That would be far too simplistic. Rather, I would invite you to ask one question: *Who is Christ for the world of this time?*

Having asked that question, we then must ask: *what must change in my life, so that others will see and know Christ in me?*

Considering these two questions will keep most of us busy during the forty days of Lent. This is our Lenten work.

Might we undertake this work with cheerfulness and joy so that we will become holy, to become people who love God and our neighbour more and more.

+Anthony