

EASTER MESSAGE 2018

FROM BISHOP COLUMBA MACBETH-GREEN OSPPE DD



*"There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth,
who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here."*

Mark 28:5

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Sometimes in our lives there are moments of great darkness and despair, times when we feel that all sense of hope is totally lost. Currently in the Diocese we are experiencing a drought. No rain sufficient enough to bring the land to life which brings us all to a sense of hopelessness.

With this in mind let us reflect on how the followers of Jesus felt after his death. They followed him for three years, listened to him preach the Good News of the kingdom, heard his promises of eternal life, witnessed many miracles yet all to end with him hanging on a Cross, dying and being buried in a tomb. It could be said that they would have felt a great sense of loss, despair and most of all hopelessness.

Yet something amazing happens, the women, still mourning the loss of Jesus go to the tomb to prepare his body. When they arrive, the body of Jesus is gone. Confused and even more distressed they are greeted by an angel who acclaims, *"There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here."* The Gospel writers tell us that the women run from the tomb to tell the followers of the amazing news and because of this event, hope is now restored.

When times are tough, when times are darkened, I invite you to reflect on this great moment, when Christ, the light of the world dispels all darkness from our lives and brings us new life and most of all hope.

Like the dryness of the land awaiting the downpour of rain, Easter is that downpour of rain. A downpour so great it renews every bit of our lives and allows us always to live in hope that Jesus who was crucified has been raised to new life. We are called to participate in this story of new life always living in the hope that was restored on that first Easter morning.

To end I leave with you with the words of St Pope John Paul II,

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and Alleluia is our song."

Yours in the Risen Christ,

Most Reverend Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE DD
Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes