

*The Wedding Feast* (2000)  
by Kazakhstan artist Nelly Bube.

[https://arthive.com/artists/57595~Nelly\\_Bube#:~:text=The%20main%20themes%20in%20the,the%20parables%20of%20Jesus%20Christ.](https://arthive.com/artists/57595~Nelly_Bube#:~:text=The%20main%20themes%20in%20the,the%20parables%20of%20Jesus%20Christ.)

*Sunday greetings to the members of the Boonah Catholic community and beyond on the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time.*

*Also, the Catholic Bishops of Queensland have asked that the 2019 “Dying Peacefully – No Euthanasia” Sunday be reprised today, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.*

## 1. REFLECTIONS ON THE SUNDAY WORD.

We share two reflections on the Sunday scriptures our church selects for this Sunday.



The [first Sunday preaching](#) is offered by Maria Soledad who was born in Santiago de Chile in 1985.

She is now living in the Boston area while pursuing her PhD in Systematic Theology at Boston College. She is also a Resident Minister serving college students and a member of the Latinx community of St. Ignatius Parish at Chestnut Hill.

During her life, María led an active life of pastoral work among marginalized communities and young people both in Chile and the US.

She is also a history teacher, and holds two masters, one on Contemporary History and one in Theology (M.T.S). She recently published a book that narrates the stories of the social workers of Vicaría de la Solidaridad, a Catholic institution that defended human rights during the last Chilean dictatorship (1973 – 1989).

Here is part of her homily:

*As the Argentinean theologian Marcella Althaus-Ried says: our hunger for food, our longing for human touch, and our hunger for God are all part of the same structure of desire that shapes our famished human lives, and challenge us to take risks, to engage with others, and to strive for liberation, not just for us, but for all. After all, salvation is not a private meal, but a massive carnival where everyone has a place. Do we desire to be part of such a party?*

<https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/10112020>



The [second Sunday reflection](#) is offered by Fr. William Grimm MM who serves as editor of UCA News (Union of Catholic Asian News).

*In the Eucharist, in the worship and service of the community of good and bad folks that Jesus invites to the banquet of God's Kingdom, I am offered a foretaste of heaven. How could I do other than rejoice?*

<https://www.ucanews.com/video/sunday-gospel-reflection-with-father-william-grimm/89787>

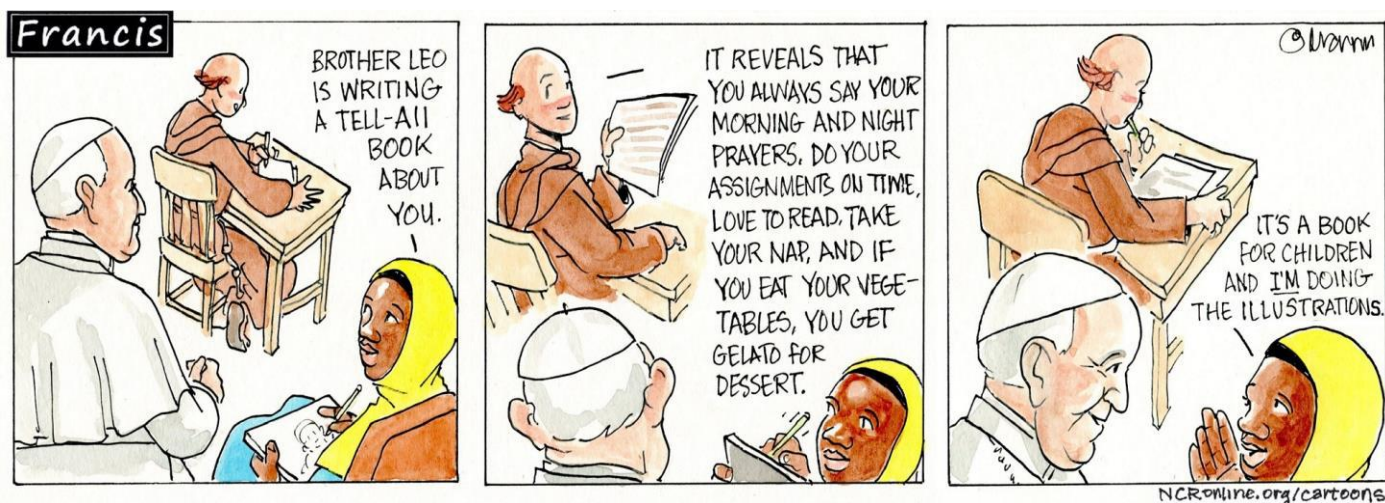
2. For those of us unable to gather for Sunday eucharist today, you may wish to prayerfully watch live-recordings of communities celebrating eucharist especially in our Cathedral of St. Stephen, Brisbane. This link takes you to the live-streaming page:

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/multimedia/on-demand-web-casts/>

Live-streamed daily eucharist continues at Lavender Bay, Sydney . . . prayerful and uplifting. Start time is 0730 Mon-Fri:

<https://www.northsydney Catholics.com/spirituality/liturgy/mass-on-demand>

3. FRANCIS, THE COMIC STRIP by Pat Marrin.



6th October 2020

4. We pray with and for those who are sick in our parish and beyond: all across the globe infected with COVID-19; former pastor of Boonah parish Fr. Ellis Clifford, Chris Healy, Bill Castley, Paul White, Thyrlene Devin, Bridget Muller, Liliana Toohill, Libby Shields, Jonathon Hancock, Marko Babic, Dermot Peters, Max Gardiner, Nicole Wimmer, Bernice Lippiatt, Pat Toohill, Trish Merlehan, Suzy Collyer, Clare Conway, Pat Shannon, Bernadette Pinchin, Simon Greatrex, Neil O'Connor and sick members of parish families and those beyond our parish boundaries.

5. At Sunday Masses across the parish, I asked the good folk to take home copies of literature made available to us from the Catholic Bishops of Queensland on today's "Dying Peacefully - No Euthanasia" Sunday.

Their letter may be accessed here:

[https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/assets/uploads/Bishops-Pastoral-Letter\\_final.pdf](https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/assets/uploads/Bishops-Pastoral-Letter_final.pdf)

Further resources:

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/life/dying-peacefully/#resources>

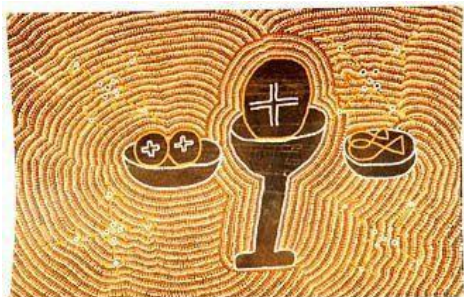
Of particular interest are two fact sheets: (i) on palliative care; and (ii) on euthanasia and assisted suicide around the world.



As well there is a discussion paper penned by Dr Caroline Ong RSM who is a practising GP and a bioethicist. This document takes a pastoral approach to discussions of death and dying: "When Life is Ending: discussing dying, assisted suicide and euthanasia":

[https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/assets/uploads/End-of-life-2017\\_A5-FA-print-hires\\_no-crops.pdf](https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/assets/uploads/End-of-life-2017_A5-FA-print-hires_no-crops.pdf)

## 6. *Boonah Parish happenings . . .*



SUNDAY EUCHARIST schedule is:

**Saturday**  
**5.00pm (Boonah church)**

**Sunday**  
**7.30am (Harrisville church)**  
**9.30am (Boonah church)**

Our WEEKDAY EUCHARIST schedule for this new week, the 28<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time, is:

<b>Monday</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October	5.30pm, <b>Boonah</b> church
<b>Tuesday</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> October	8.00am, <b>Boonah</b> church
<b>Wednesday</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> October	6.00pm, <b>Peak Crossing</b> church
<b>Thursday</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> October	8.00am, <b>Boonah</b> church

♦ It was great to welcome a "Family Group" from the Brisbane City parish of Wishart to the 0930 Sunday eucharist today. Thanks to Dorothy and Michael for making contact with us and enabling it all to happen. We enjoyed having you with us!



The Passionist Family Group Movement is a ministry of the Passionists that began in Australia in 1972. The congregation of Passionists were founded 300 years ago this year!

Over the years I have come across many people who have been part of this outreach to parishioners at the local level. It aims to help people become connected to others.

Click the link for their WINTER 2020 National Newsletter:

<https://www.pfgm.org/national-newsletter-winter-2020/>

♦ We look forward to the baptism of Lachlan Woodforth (born June 2020), son of Sarah McInnes and Ben Woodforth, at our Harrisville Church on the last Sunday of this month.



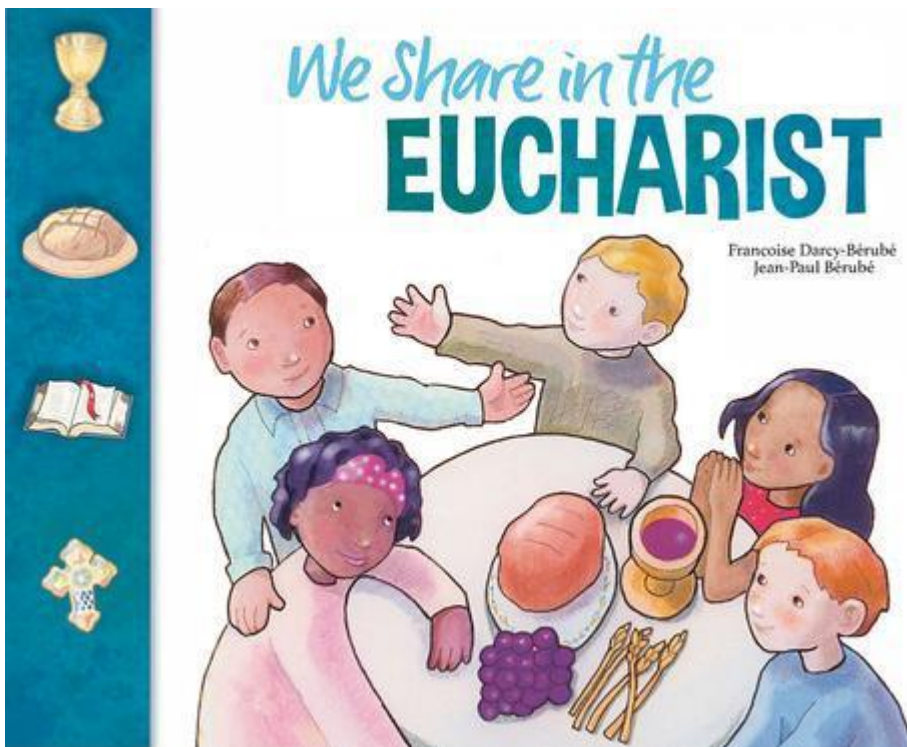
- ♦ One of our younger parishioners asked me today about Confirmation and First Communion: *when are we having them?*

We had this in our bulletin last Sunday so I will keep it in today:

All parishes across the local Church of Brisbane have been involved in the process of requesting preferred dates for the celebration of Confirmation in 2021. We have asked for the bishop to join us for the celebration at one or two Sunday Masses in August next year. More news when we find out what has been arranged.

This means that we are aiming to prepare candidates for Confirmation and First Communion after Easter holidays next year. We will take the first Term of the new school year as time to enrol candidates and work out the processes.

It is my hope that we will be able to get copies of a marvellous resource from Canada: *We Share in the Eucharist*, published in September 2019.



This newly revised resource prepares children for the sacrament of Eucharist.

When I served in Mackay, the teams who prepared children and families found it a marvellous resource.

The authors are Françoise Darcy-Berube and John-Paul Berube, well known pioneering catechists for children who have collaborated and published numerous books together

They also have a resource for Reconciliation.

- ♦ A heads up for those who usually celebrate Eucharist during the week. I will be away Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Eucharist will be celebrated only in Boonah that week: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8.00am. *Thank you.*

- ♦ The annual *Catholic Mission* appeal is scheduled in our parish for the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> October. The universal Church celebrates *World Mission Sunday* on the same Sunday!

I am pleased that we will welcome Catholic Mission ambassador, Chrissie Turner, who will join our three Sunday celebrations. Chrissie has worked in Cambodia. I know we will make her and her husband very welcome.





♦ Thanks to those who are supporting our local SVDP food pantry. There is a great response from the community who gather at Harrisville church every week. On behalf of the local conference, THANK YOU.

*All donations are welcome. Dry-shelf contributions only please. Food donations can be placed in baskets at our two churches.*

♦ Our BOONAH PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL meets this week, **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 6.30pm sharp - 7.45pm.**

7. FRANCIS, THE COMIC STRIP by Pat Marrin.



7<sup>th</sup> October 2020

8. I will summarize in a simple litany some of the elements in the change in style of the Church indicated by the council's vocabulary:

*from commands to invitations,  
 from laws to ideals,  
 from threats to persuasion,  
 from coercion to conscience,  
 from monologue to conversation,  
 from ruling to serving,  
 from withdrawn to integrated,  
 from vertical and top-down to horizontal,  
 from exclusion to inclusion,  
 from hostility to friendship,  
 from static to changing,  
 from passive acceptance to active engagement,  
 from prescriptive to principled,  
 from defined to open-ended,  
 from behaviour-modification to conversion of heart,  
 from the dictates of law to the dictates of conscience,  
 from external conformity to the joyful pursuit of holiness.*

*When those elements are taken in the aggregate, they indicate a model of spirituality. This, they say, is what good Catholics should look like and this is how they should behave. That means the elements indicate what the Church should look like and how it should behave. This is a significant model-shift. This is a teaching of the council.*  
 - Fr. John O'Malley SJ, 2006



**THE CATHOLIC LEADER**  
 Get our weekly digital newspaper   
 Free during the COVID-19 pandemic

9. THE CATHOLIC LEADER digital edition is available free at the moment and can be sent to your inbox every Thursday morning while the pandemic is still with us. Sign up on <https://bit.ly/2ShdcSZ>. The editor and his team hopes this offer gives us all a sense of connection, inspiration and renewal in the faith, at a time when living the faith has changed.

10. Here is a short pithy comment on today's Sunday gospel from the American Catholic bishop, Robert Barron:

MATTHEW 22:1-14

Friends, today's Gospel likens the kingdom of God to a king who gives a wedding feast for his son. The biblical authors couldn't find a more apt metaphor for the coming together of divinity and humanity than a wedding banquet. God and humanity are married, and they are surrounded by joy, peace, celebration, and good food.

What was Jesus' strategy? Open table-fellowship; outreach to all, to the righteous and the unrighteous, to the healthy and the sick, to the mainstream and the marginalized. Here comes everybody. You don't have to be good to receive God's grace; that's why they call it "grace."

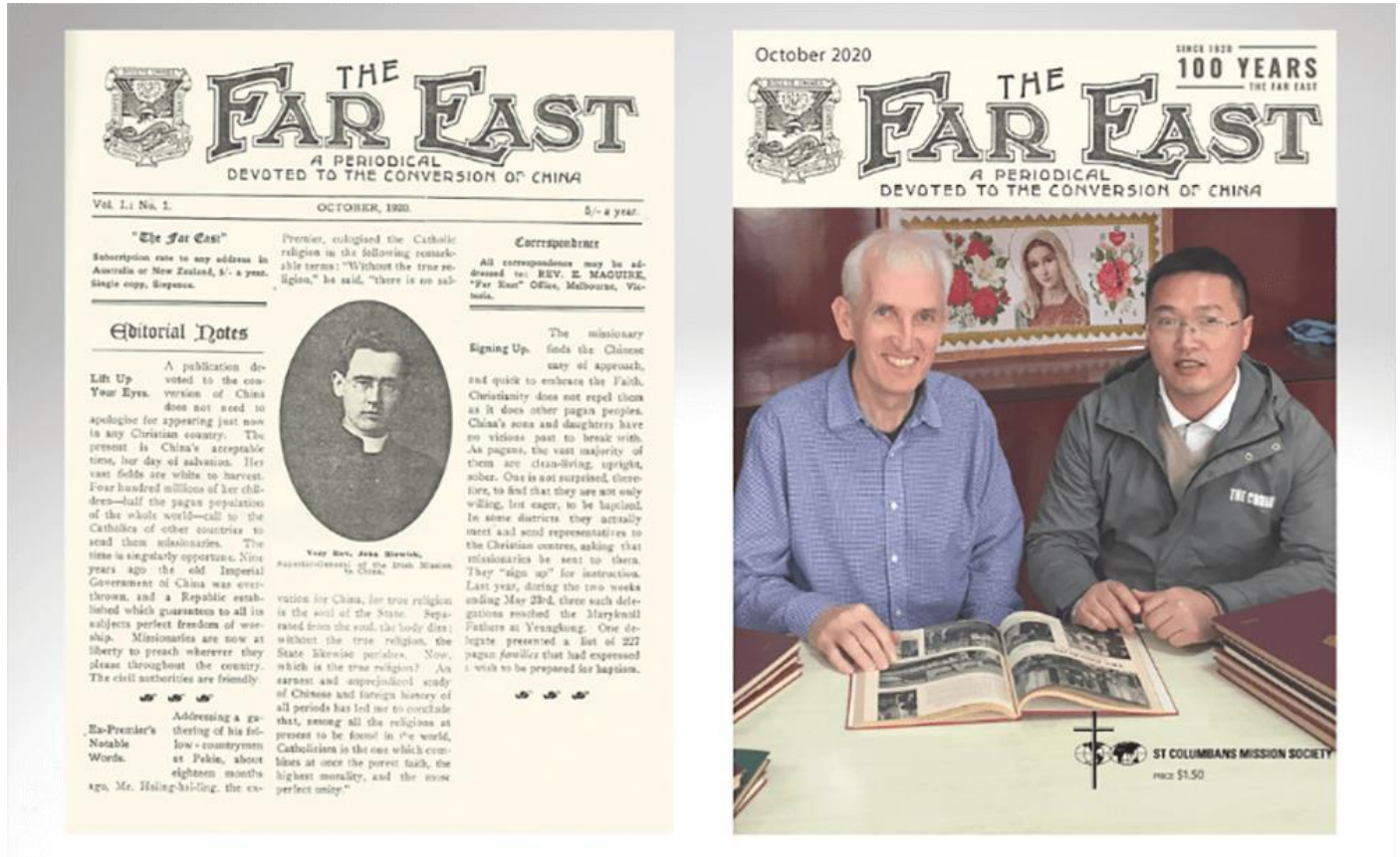
But then something puzzling emerges. When the king comes to welcome his guests, he finds someone not properly dressed: "The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?'" It was customary at the time (as it still is) for people to come to a wedding dressed up.

The play here is between grace and works. We can refuse the invitation altogether, or we can refuse the transformation that should follow from grace. We have to cooperate with grace, donning the wedding garment of love, forgiveness, peace, and nonviolence.



11. The Columban's have produced *The Far East* for 100 years!

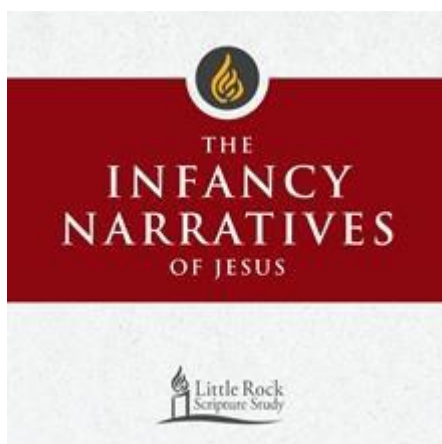
When I was at our family home when going to school, I seem to remember copies of *The Far East* in our lounge room. If my memory serves me correctly, one of my great aunts gave it to us after she had read it.



To mark the centenary, our own leader + Mark Coleridge sent a video message of gratitude to the Missionary Society of St. Columban on behalf of all Australian Catholics. It is worth a listen!

<https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/the-far-east-magazine/100-years-the-far-east-magazine/archbishop-mark-coleridges-message-of-thanks>

12. Advent is fast approaching! Yes . . . *Advent starts after the next six Sundays.*



This week, one of the religious publishing houses in Australia sent us advertising about a revised book called *The Infancy Narratives of Jesus*.

There are only **three** lessons! I thought some of us would be interested in looking at these gospel stories from Matthew and Luke.

It looks great: commentary, reflection questions for discussion, prayers and access to online lectures.

Dates to follow and starting the first week of December.



13. I overheard part an interview on ABC Radio National's *The Screen Show* during the week.

It reviewed the new movie, *Miss Juneteenth*. Some of the deeper insights in the interview with the young female Black American director, Channing Godfrey Peoples, struck a chord with me:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-screen-show/channing-godfrey-peoples-garrett-bradley-fox-rich-schitts-creek/12736290>



*Thanks to one of our parish friends for sharing this pic . . .*

14. American Benedictine sister Joan Chittister's recent column is: *And Jesus wept: a good idea*. She writes from her context of the USA but there is timely wisdom for us here in this country.

There is a very poignant moment in Scripture that gets little exegesis, it seems, but it touches the deepest nerve of a people in mourning for the loss of the character of their nation. Like our own.

It is the picture in Luke 19 of Jesus weeping over Jerusalem — the city on the hill that was the heart and soul of the nation.

"Jerusalem," Jesus cries, "you killers of the prophets." And then he speaks to the troubled city, "If only you had known the path to peace."

It is a cry that strikes too close a chord to be ignored in the modern world. The mind revolts at the thought of it. A time to weep? Not here. This is the good time generation, the land of beach parties and early

retirement, the world of aspirin and analgesics, of marijuana, alcohol and cocaine. On this planet, psychic numbing has been raised to high art. Suffering is not welcome here.

But grief comes nevertheless.

Years ago, I wrote a book called *There Is A Season*. Ecclesiastes the sage says, "There is a time for

everything under heaven: a time to weep and a time to laugh." It gave me great pause then and it prods my soul even more now. The implications are enormous.

The truth is that tears fall despite the fact that we resist them so strongly. Weeping and wailing are heard everywhere in the land of milk and honey — the unemployed who want basics they can't have now that COVID-19 has locked them out of work; the sick and the lonely, who are powerless to save themselves from a virus of invisible particles, and fear they will surely die alone; the evicted and the powerless, whose lives are faceless and unrecognized; the privileged and the well-to-do, who have it all and still have nothing that really satisfies; and maybe most of all, our young people, who are looking at their future and seeing only ruination. No work available. Everything they took for granted, gone.



Indeed, few of us see our weeping as a spiritual gift or a matter of divine design. But we are wrong. Weeping is a very holy and life-giving thing. It sounds alarms for a society and wizens the soul of the individual. Ecclesiastes may be nowhere more correct than here. There is definitely a time for weeping. If we do not weep on the personal level, we shall never understand humanity around us. If we do not

weep on the public level, we are less than human ourselves.

The Rabbi Hanoch of Alexander said it well: "The real exile of Israel in Egypt was that they had learned to endure it." There are, in other words, some things that ought not to be endured. There are some things worth weeping about lest we lose our sense of self. We must always cope with evil, of course, but we must never adjust to it. We must stay eternally restless for justice, for joy. Restless enough to cry out in pain when the world loses them.

There are some things about which if we do not weep, we will betray the human race. "If we had been holier people," John Templeton wrote, "we would have been angrier, oftener." Anger, disillusionment, tears explode in the midst of humanity to give us all a chance to become more human than we could ever have been without them.

If we do not allow ourselves to face and feel pain, we run the risk of entombing ourselves in a plastic bubble where our lies about life shrink our hearts and limit our vision. It is not healthy, for instance, to say that massive poverty is sad but "normal." It is not right to say that sexism is unfortunate but "necessary." It is not human to say that war is miserable but "inevitable." It is not healthy to insist that our deep hurts and cutting disappointments and appalling losses and great personal mistakes do not exist. On the contrary. To weep tears of frustration about them may be to take our first real steps toward honesty, toward mental health, toward a life that is worth living. Not a hoax and not fake news.



Weeping, in fact, may be the best indicator we have of what life is really all about for us. It may be only when we weep that we can come to know best either ourselves or our worlds. What we weep for measures what we are. What we weep over indicates what others may expect of us in life. It was when Jesus wept over Jerusalem that the die was cast, not for crucifixion, but for the blaze of energy and the boldness of stature that spent everything in him to change what, in the end, though it could not be changed, could not be ignored either. Tears, you see, are more than sadness.

When a person weeps, it is not a private matter. Tears demand our attention. Weeping fractures the social protocol to such a degree that we realize, no matter how remote we ourselves may be from the feelings that provoked another's tears, that nothing will ever be quite the same between us again until the breach is repaired and the rupture is healed. Tears warn us that the foundations of a relationship which we may have dealt with so cavalierly in the past are now in danger. Tears beg for a human response and dare not be denied.

Weeping signals that it is time to change things in life because for someone, somehow, life has now become unmanageable. "Though all afflictions are evil in themselves, yet they are good for us, because they discover to us our disease and tend to our cure," John Tillotson, a 17th-century Archbishop of Canterbury wrote.



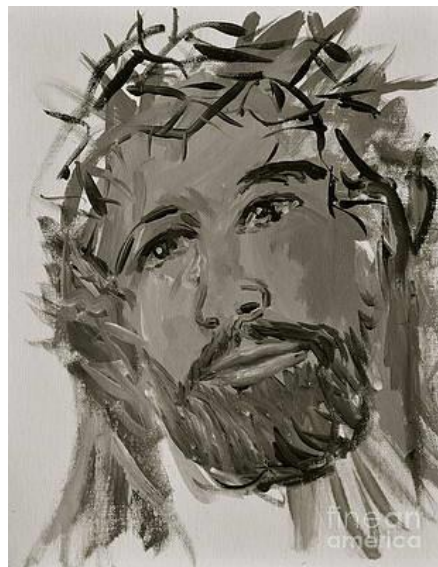
Without our tears, we have no hope of healing because we do not begin to confront the anguish.

If ever there were proof of those words, it is in the United States of America, now, today, here.

In a matter of months, our place in the universe of nations has changed — America has gone from leader of the free world to pathetic shadow of our former global self. Weak, chaotic, out of control and at the mercy of a playschool monarch, we have become a tattered remnant of a once great forward-looking nation.

There is a deep sadness in the United States these days as people watch its international stature melt to the miniscule. There is a barely muffled anger at the train wrecks that have become our most sacred political institutions. There is growing shock and mistrust that comes

with realizing that when a president goes rogue, there is actually no obvious process of how to end it unless Congress itself has the integrity, the awareness, to deal with the gravity of the situation.



Indeed, Jesus wept over the city he had come to warn of the creeping degradation of the nation but which was rejecting him. He was weeping over the folly of those who were unwilling

to accept and support the idea that a new age had arrived.

We talk a lot these days about bringing the country back together. Maybe we ought to give some thought to learning from those countries before us who have decided that restoring trust and confidence may well depend on starting with a truth and reconciliation process at the highest level. It may be our only "path to peace" — if we want to rediscover the old, worthy, solid American spirit that got us beyond the Civil War, the Great Depression, the streams of unemployed immigrants and too many World Wars.

From where I stand, it seems to me that we have to reboot the nature of the country that we are.

And to do that, we may need to do a bit of weeping ourselves.

*Joan Chittister is a Benedictine sister of Erie, Pennsylvania*



<https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/>

Enjoy the new week ahead.

John,  
pastor, Boonah Catholic community