

**ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
KNYSNA
WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2021**



Dear Friends,

I am writing this Pastoral Letter to you on Wednesday morning.

Earlier today, I turned on E News and saw more of the mayhem, which is engulfing so much of our country.

There was an interview with a young medical doctor describing in vivid detail the terrifying scenes going on both outside and inside a Clinic, in Hillbrow. It was like a war zone. He spoke about the chaos and confusion inside the Clinic, where there were rampaging people, fighting with one another, as well as with the staff.

He said that he had never seen anything like it. As he was recounting his experience, some words of Jesus came into my mind. Jesus said, " In the world you will have trouble. But take heart. I have conquered the world." John 16v 33

Jesus was not a dreamy idealist. He was a realist! It isn't coincidental that the symbol of our faith is a Cross . Yes, as Christians, we are not exempt from trouble.

Now, on Monday morning the Psalm appointed for Morning Prayer was Psalm 91. As I recited and considered this Psalm, an amazing sense of God's presence and peace engulfed me. Yes , in the midst of a raging Covid epidemic , on the one hand and looting and wanton destruction , on the other, I felt an inner and perfect peace. It was extraordinary!! It was the peace of God which passes all understanding.

If you are feeling anxious and afraid I would encourage you to prayerfully ponder the words of Psalm 91 and take them to heart. They will give you a quiet mind and even in the midst of the present turmoil, you will at peace.

Psalm 91

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High;
who abides under the shadow of the Almighty
2. He will say to the Lord
'You are my refuge and my stronghold;
my God in whom I trust.'
3. For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter:
and from the destroying curse.
4. He will cover you with his wings
and you will be safe under his feathers:
his faithfulness will be your shield and defence.
5. You shall not be afraid of any terror by night
or of the arrow that flies by day.
6. Of the pestilence that walks about in darkness:
or the plague that destroys at noonday.
7. A thousand may fall beside you
and ten thousand at your right hand:
but you it shall not touch;
8. Your own eyes shall see:
and look on the reward of the ungodly.
9. The Lord himself is your refuge:
you have made the Most High your stronghold.
10. Therefore no harm will befall you:
nor will any scourge come near your tent.
11. For he will command his angels:
to keep you in all our ways.
12. They will bear you up in their hands:
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13. You will tread on the lion and the adder:
the young lion and the serpent
you will trample under foot.
14. He has set his love upon me
and therefore I will deliver him:
I will lift him out of danger and because he has
known my name.
15. When he calls upon me I will answer him:
I will be with him in trouble
I will rescue him and bring him to honour
16. With long life I will satisfy him:
and fill him with my salvation.

Yesterday afternoon, I went for a walk down at the lagoon. The wind had abated and the rain had stopped. And there, right across the sky , stretching from one horizon to the other, was a magnificent Rainbow!

It was a truly wonderful sight. For me, it was a symbol of God's enduring love and providence, that all would be well. And that He has not abandoned us.

Once again, I experienced this deep sense of inner peace and tranquillity and it is my prayer any of our members, who are feeling anxious and dismayed will be granted the same sense of serenity and well being.

And so, let us embrace the promises of our Lord and be of good courage!! The Lord is with His people.

Yours in the Faith,

+ Paddy

