



AN EASTER MESSAGE

TO THE FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF WILCANNIA-FORBES FROM
THE MOST REVEREND BISHOP COLUMBA MACBETH-GREEN OSPPE DD

“HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN”

Luke 24:6

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In last year's Easter message to the diocese, I spoke of 'hope' in times of trouble. This hope was especially centred on the devastation of drought that has hit the diocese, and as we approach another Easter we still find ourselves in drought. Although, amidst the drought stricken region of our diocese, I see some glimmer of hope. As I drive across the diocese I have noticed on the side of the road a small amount of green shoots growing meaning that some rain has finally fallen. This to me brings me some assurance of the hope we hold for rain. This hope is very similar to the week we have entered as we celebrate the great mysteries of our faith, with the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. As Jesus entered the final stages of his earthly work, the disciples thought something great was going to happen, that Jesus would bring about a huge revolt against the Roman occupation and free Israel from Roman rule. Rather, the disciples found themselves in the middle of a public trial and condemnation of their friend who was summoned to death by crucifixion, which was the worst form of punishment during those days. When Good Friday came, everything was finished. Hope was lost as they all vanished from the side of Jesus in fear of what would happen to them. Sometimes we are like this to; we vanish from the side of Jesus when things get a little tough losing hope in the one who came to bring us the good news.

Yet something amazing happened, on the first day of the week the women came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away and two men greeted them saying, "Why do you look among the dead for someone who is alive? (Luke 24:1-12)" It is by this statement, they knew Jesus had risen from the dead and all hope was restored. When the earth is dry and barren, it seems that hope has vanished from our midst, yet when we see that small sprouting of greenery in our dry diocese we see the rebirth of hope, just like the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

Therefore dear friends, do not lose hope, no matter how tough life gets. Hold on to that hope that despite a crucifixion and death, a resurrection will occur. Let us take heart from Saint Paul's words that we hear at Easter, "Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory so that we too might live a new life. (Romans 6:3-11)". I pray that this Easter may be filled with God's rich blessings for you all, that you may all find new life in him!

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Mother of the Risen Christ, Patroness of Wilcannia-Forbes- Pray for us

Yours in the Risen Christ!



Most Rev. Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE D.D
Bishop the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes



*"Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia.
For He, whom thou wast worthy to bear. Alleluia.
Has risen as He said. Alleluia.
Pray for us to God. Alleluia.
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia.
Because the Lord is truly risen, Alleluia"*