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**ARCHDIOCESAN MEDIA OFFICE**

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Date: Wednesday 20 March 2024

Subject: Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB – Easter Message for The West Australian

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“Each year the celebration of Easter is, for Christians, one of life and hope.

Jesus Christ, the “prince of peace”, was destroyed by those who were affronted by His teachings and shamed by His goodness. Those teachings, and that goodness, found their source in His determination to be faithful to all God was asking of Him. This led to His death, but the celebration of Easter proclaims that ultimately that fidelity led to new life: for Him, and for all who willingly receive that gift from Him.

In the columns of our newspapers, in the nightly television news, and in so many other ways, we are confronted daily by the very opposite of goodness, of fidelity and of peace. As Pope Francis has noted, the world is gradually being engulfed by a new kind of “world war”. The brutal attacks against Israel and the ensuing war in Gaza are causing unimaginable suffering and death in the very lands where Jesus walked and taught; the increasingly violent and destructive war in Ukraine; the civil war unfolding in Sudan; the brutal oppression experienced by the people of Myanmar: this depressing list does not exhaust the reality of the violence, conflict, and destruction which marks our contemporary world.

As we struggle to know how to respond to all this, and indeed feel helpless to do anything constructive, the example of Jesus offers a way forward.

Fidelity to the commitments we have made, simple acts of goodness and kindness to those we encounter each day, an openness to both give and receive forgiveness, and a rejection of the impulse to criticise and condemn - all these, so obvious in the life and teaching of Jesus, have the power to transform our lives and heal our relationships.

In one sense, in the face of the challenges the world is facing, they may seem trivial. But peace in the world, peace in our country, and peace in our family, must begin somewhere. As a popular song puts it, *“Let there be peace on earth - and let it begin with me”*. (345 words)

Most Rev. Timothy Costelloe SDB  
Catholic Archbishop of Perth”.

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