



Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

Media Release

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For Immediate Release

Easter: God's Inflation Figure

An Easter Reflection from Bishop Brian Farran

Many Hunter residents will celebrate this Easter concerned about the impact upon them of interest rate rises. These residents will be more aware of the economic bad news than Easter's good news.

The effect of living with bad economic news, whatever the longer term good prospects from fighting inflation, has a deadening effect upon us – we live the stress and the anxiety. Yet life is more than economics. Or as Jesus once said, "Life is more than food and raiment".

Inflation presents as an economic spectre, something to be controlled however painful for ordinary households in the short-term. And many Australian households are experiencing that economic pain with consequent real anxiety and stress.

We live, however, in a vaster economy than any fiscal economy. We live within God's great economy of created life. Easter is God's index of the cost that God is willing to sustain in order to secure our futures forever. Easter is God's inflation figure.

Easter is inflationary in a positive human sense. Easter injects massive hope into our living. Easter says that the world is not a gigantic tomb. Easter says that our own histories do not end with a whimper. Easter is all about life with God forever.

Easter inflates our hopes and expectations. For Easter celebrates God's decisive action in raising Jesus from the dead. The power of Easter and its reverberating hope lie in God's action in endorsing Jesus as the definitive disclosure of God's character. God is known through Jesus as friend, lover, eternal protector.

Without the promise of Easter, the resurrection of Jesus, human life is as one of Shakespeare's characters put it, "A tale full of fury, signifying nothing". Easter is the Divine counter to despair. Easter as a source of hope injects creative possibilities into human history. For Easter tells us that being human is more a matter of hopefulness than anything else. And hope is a power surge that can create better futures, better possibilities, better quality of life that are not dogged by the spectre of death.

Easter affirms that death has met its match in the resurrection of Jesus. Yes, Easter does inflate our hopes. Easter is no runaway economy of delusion but a solid responsible guarantee that God can be trusted with our individual futures forever.

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Contact the Communications Officer of the Diocese, Elizabeth Keevers on
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