



# The Miraculous Medal Association Australia

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*Incorporating AMM Sydney, New South Wales  
AMM Adelaide, South Australia. and Nausori, Fiji.*



**The Empty Tomb**



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After the events of Holy Week, the women who came to embalm the body of Jesus never found it. What confronted them was the empty tomb and a "young man in a white robe" who told them, "he has risen, he is not here." Other witnesses to that first Easter (Peter and the Beloved disciple) had the same experience. What they discovered was the empty tomb. They are told to look elsewhere for Jesus, that he is risen and is now beyond the power of death. There are many 'empty tomb' experiences in our lives, times of sadness, of grieving, of suffering, times of emptiness, hopelessness, and even despair for some. As Easter People we believe that Jesus is risen and is truly present within and among us through his Holy Spirit. Perhaps God invites us to experience the empty tomb, so that we might search more for Christ in our prayer, in our life. Perhaps we are being drawn to a new experience of him. We notice in the resurrection events of the Gospel story that at first Jesus' disciples do not recognize him. Mary Magdalen thought he was the gardener; to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus he was a stranger; to some of the apostles, he was a ghost.

What can we do to be more open to the Risen Christ's presence with us in our daily living? Our responsibilities, our work, our way of life, all of what comprises our daily activities can take their toll on us as persons. In the midst of all this activity we may need space for quiet, for reflection, for prayer. And that prayer need not be saying prayers, but, perhaps, it is a time for getting in touch with what goes on inside us. Perhaps it is owning our 'empty tomb' experiences and talking to God about them. Can we acknowledge our 'empty tomb' experiences before Jesus, that we might gain new life, a new spirit, with its joy and courage, that was evident in Jesus' disciples after the Resurrection. By telling him our story, sharing all our experiences with him in prayer, we open ourselves more and more to the life-giving power of God's love, God's Spirit within us, and to a new experience of the Risen Christ. Only then, through our rising to new life, will we help lift others from their 'empty tomb' experiences to the new life the Risen Christ offers to all who would believe in him.

Fr Kevin Canty, CM.

## Inside this issue:

He is risen! Happy Easter to all . 1.

REFLECTION" 'THE Empty Tomb

Blessing of Miraculous Medal Shrine at St Anthony's Church, Marsfield, Sydney. 2.

News from the AMM at Nausori Fiji Islands 3.

Commencement of a reflection on Spirituality, Life in the Spirit. 4.

## *Easter Blessings!*

**To all our readers, have a Happy Easter, and may this Easter Season be truly a time for deepening your relationship with Jesus in prayer, as you share any 'empty tomb' experiences with him and so be filled with an increase of faith, hope and of love, as you strive to be one of Jesus' disciples in our world today.**



Following the celebration of Mass and Novena in Saint Anthony's Church, 54 Agincourt Road, Marsfield, on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, Fr. Kevin Canty CM, National Director of AMM in Australia, officially blessed the Shrine to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal which is located in Saint Anthony's Church. This fulfils a long-time wish of many people in the Marsfield area to have a Shrine to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. In a Special way we thank Fr Joseva Tuimavule, CM, parish priest of St Anthony's, for making it possible for this Shrine to be set up.

Mary's words to St. Catherine in the first apparition in 1830 remind us there are privileged meeting places that are life-giving for us:

***"Come to the foot of this altar; here many graces will be bestowed on all who ask with confidence and fervour. They will be given to the rich and to the poor."***

Here we entrust our lives, our joys and sorrows in the hands of Jesus and His mother Mary. It is in union with them that we gain the strength, understanding and love to serve our brothers and sisters.





## Association of the Miraculous Medal (Nausori, Fiji Islands)

Ni Sa Bula Vinaka!

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, 11 of the members from Nausori & Toga of the St Vincent De Paul Parish in Nausori gathered at St Joseph The Worker Primary School for the Annual Retreat. We were grateful to have our Chaplain Rev.Fr.Sowane from St Vincent De Paul Parish as our facilitator for the Retreat. The Gospel for the day was taken from the Gospel of St.Luke where members were given time to reflect on the gospel. There was a time for sharing which was aided by Fr.Sowane –the theme of our sharing was on the “Blessed Mother Mary,” the great wonders, powers and miracles she has performed in our individual and family lives.

Sharing was done individually and it was a very unforgettable and a life changing moment for us as we heard how the Blessed Mother Mary unveiled her great powers and miracles in their individual and family lives.

The day concluded with a mass celebrated by Rev.Fr.Sowane. We all appreciated Rev.Fr.Sowane’s contribution to our day of sharing and prayer. The day was then followed by Lunch.

Vinaka Vakalevu

Makarita Amoe





**LIVING LIFE IN THE SPIRIT** *Being truly Easter people in our world today. Part 1)*

*"Christian Spirituality has to do with life lived in the Spirit. This life has its determining contexts in the saving work of Jesus Christ, the normative Word of God found in the Gospel, and actualization of the saving mysteries in the Church and Sacraments. This life is above all life, touching the core of the human person's existence and subjectivity and relating us mediately and immediately to its source, God. Furthermore, spirituality as life in the Spirit contains a dynamism toward growth which amounts to a dynamism toward greater union with the Lord. This is the global reality of Christian Spirituality." (Louis J. Cameli)*

**WHAT IS BIBLICAL SPIRITUALITY?**

C.M. Cherian suggests the following as marks of "Biblical Spirituality" ("Meet Jesus in the Bible"):

- receiving the grace of repentance; --- obedience to the Word of God;
- a prayerful approach to life; --- preparing for the way of the Lord;
- watchfulness when resisting temptation; --- being personally converted to the Gospel; --- practising love in the human community; --- suffering with Jesus;
- being sent by Jesus on his mission of love; -- waiting for Christ.

***"Christian Spirituality is the style of a person's response to Christ before the challenge of everyday life, in a given historical and cultural environment." (Dyckman and Carroll)***

People speak and write about many different "spiritualities" - Franciscan spirituality,

Dominican spirituality, Ignatian spirituality, Methodist spirituality, Buddhist spirituality, and so on. Is "biblical spirituality" another variety? Or should we hold, as Louis Bouyer suggests, that there is in reality only one spirituality for Christians, and we should not really speak about spiritualities in the plural? Because spirituality finds its true meaning in actual life, and varies according to the person who lives it, most authors would say it is legitimate to speak of spiritualities in the plural. Through their strong personalities and deep convictions, saints have often set a pattern of new spirituality for their contemporaries. But, strictly speaking, every Christian has his or her own spirituality. The Spirit of God rules each person in a unique way and works in the life of each individual in a manner unique to each.

**ELEMENTS IN BIBLICAL SPIRITUALITY**

- 1. Experience of God.** The Word of God puts us in contact with God. We can have the genuine experience of meeting God. Reading the Word of God or hearing it proclaimed in the liturgy should lead, not so much to an increase in knowledge, as to an experience of God's presence.
- 2. Searching the Scriptures.** God is the first to speak, but unless we are open to receive God's Word with readiness and listen attentively, the Word of God will not bear fruit. Prayer and the reading of the Word of God should go together.
- 3. Witness of the Spirit.** The Scriptures come to us through the Church, through the witness of others who share their faith with us, through our communion with others who believe in Christ.
- 4. Transformation of Life.** While the experience of hearing God speak is vitally important, it happens in vain if it does not effect change in our lives. The ultimate test of Biblical spirituality does not lie in the knowledge that God speaks to us, but in the fruits God's Word produces in our attitudes and in our conduct.

(We commence in this issue a treatment of Spirituality, that is of our life lived in the Spirit. We will continue this reflection in further issues, coming eventually to look at the Vincentian charism and tradition, and considering where the apparitions to St Catherine Labouré of Our Lady, and the subsequent Associations of the Miraculous Medal, fit into and relate to the Vincentian charism and the Vincentian Family today.)

Fr Kevin Canty, CM. National Director.