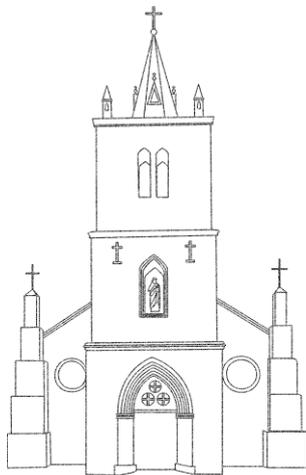


"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)

item 159

a pilgrimage to the Sacred Heart of the Kimberley



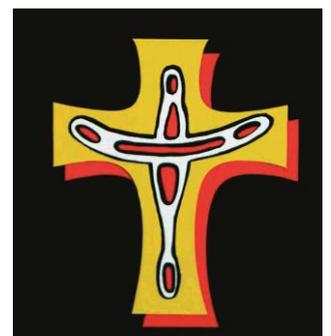
The Pilgrimage to the Sacred Heart of the Kimberley – the **Back to Beagle Bay** experience – has been an opportunity for the Broome Diocese to come together in prayer, celebrating our communion as the Church of the Kimberley, with every parish represented at the gathering and all of us praying not only for those present, but also for those in other places.

Finding ways to pray together is important. Over the last two years particularly, I have been very keen to impress at various meetings that every parish and school needs to become familiar with the Aboriginal *Our Father*, the Lord's Prayer. Since every Parish includes a significant number of Aboriginal people, the singing of the Aboriginal *Our Father* takes on an extra importance for us all as Church. It is one prayer at least that all cultures found within the Diocese may easily share and in so doing recognize the proper place of the Indigenous peoples as the First Peoples of this land, as rightful custodians. I believe it is essential that we continue to commit ourselves in our Church to reconciliation between peoples. I

believe further that the use of this prayer at meetings, gatherings, prayer times and school assemblies is one sure way to assist that commitment in hope comes to fruition.

There is a certain power in praying together; the sum total of us in a union of worshipful prayer has an effect in our lives that is memorable and remarkable. The experience of the Pilgrimage has afforded such a moment for all participants. The walkers, for instance, who travelled the 72 kilometres to the famous Peninsula Church, the cradle of the faith in the Kimberley, shared prayer along the way, celebrated Mass and joined in that wonderful devotion of the rosary. All the pilgrims at Beagle Bay gathered at the toll of the bells for the Angelus that welcomed them and announced the beginning of our celebration of Jesus Christ, The Word Who Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us. In the evening we shared the Reconciliation service that brought us the grace of mercy and forgiveness in the words of absolution. At the Sunday Mass we held a healing service and the Sacrament of the Sick was administered to many people. Such a gathering in that highest form of prayer, the Mass, is a highlight in our lives more easily experienced than defined. We did so much together in prayerful communion.

There is another form of prayer that I hope has been encouraged by our Pilgrimage experience: meditative or contemplative prayer. The importance of it was mentioned several times. It is valuable time spent alone with the Lord. Such prayerful experience stands in stark contrast to a noisy world that is



fearful of silence. When you think of it, there is barely a place or a time in our lives, when noise and activity do not dominate our living space.



The purpose of the Pilgrimage was to pay due homage to God and to give thanks for the gift of faith, first made present at Beagle Bay when the Word was proclaimed and then dwelt among us. Hopefully our Pilgrimage enabled some pilgrims to place themselves in a rightful relationship with God and neighbour. It was also a moment to encourage us to develop habits of prayer that were on the one hand communal and on the other contemplative.

Without a doubt, this occasion has encouraged us to realize that we are a Pilgrim people. And our journey in faith celebrated in the beautiful country of the Djaba Djaba and Nyul Nyul peoples extends beyond that country to the journey of a lifetime where a living faith is nothing less than a way of life. Let that be our prayer.

Bishop Christopher Saunders – Broome – AUSTRALIA
02.09.13

courtesy Diocesan magazine: **Kimberley Community Profile**
kcp@broomediocese.org

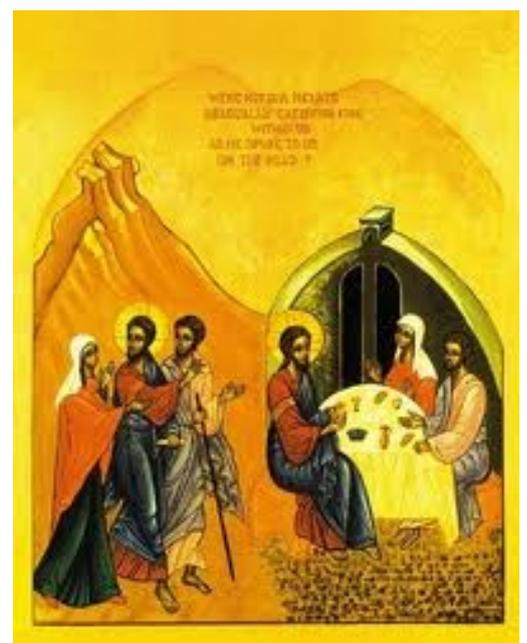
item 160

a companion on the journey

The risen Christ accompanied two of his disciples on their journey to Emmaus listening to their stories as they walked together towards their destination. In telling those stories, the disciples were trying to make sense of the traumatic and confusing events of their recent past. A terrified mind coping with a trauma has a hard time making sense out of disconcerting realities. The fact that they were recounting happenings to Jesus provides the perfect context to become truly aware of their meanings.

Narrating life stories and world events is one of the ways in which human beings integrate meaning into their lives. The disciples debated and discussed between themselves everything they had heard and experienced. Jesus invited them to share those stories with him. Then with the use of the scriptures, he bathed their stories in a light that only God can bring into the confusion of one's life. The fact that there was Jesus listening to them intensified their perception and understanding of the happenings. Yet they were unaware of its meaning until they sat down with Jesus to break bread. By then Jesus had disappeared from their sight. When the awareness of what those events meant to them personally took hold of them, they exclaimed: "Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32).

This opportunity to narrate our stories is essential for us as we journey through various stages in our life. The Christian tradition of having a spiritual director facilitates the story telling among us and with someone else in particular so that we can create meaning in our lives. Unfortunately, spiritual direction is often seen as a problem solving process. People



believe that one goes to a spiritual director in order to have a problem solved. On the contrary, speaking to someone we trust on a regular basis is the best way to understand ourselves better and progress in our spiritual life. We do not go to a spiritual director just because we are in a quandary.

Having a spiritual director or a counsellor may not always bring about immediate life changing epiphanies. That should not prevent us from relating to them on a regular basis. They can be our companions on the journey. That our experiences were spoken about and shared makes it easier for them to be meaningfully assimilated into our lives. This assimilation may not always be very evident at the time of sharing. Neither was it so for the two disciples who shared their stories with Jesus. That does not make the sharing of the story any less meaningful. The encounter that made the sharing possible is the essence, even if we do not discern their benefits immediately.

A quote from C. S. Lewis taken from his book, *Out of the Silent Planet* is very pertinent in this context. "When you and I met, the meeting was over very shortly, it was nothing. Now it is growing something as we remember it. What will it be when I remember it as I lie down to die, what it makes in me all my days till then - that is the real meeting. The other is only the beginning of it."

Jose Eluvathingal sac [NA] – Germantown – USA
06.09.13
eljose@rediffmail.com

sac asia oceania e-bulletin

you commented...

- on #83** Thank you...My good friend always said "don't keep the faith, spread it" **WW 01.09.13**
- I particularly enjoyed Lindsay's contribution this week, the theme or topic strikes a chord, he has a real ability to synthesize and communicates the theme, discussion and activities of that event in less than a page. **JM 01.09.13**
- How wonderful that you can share the thoughts of your confreres with all of us. **#83** is another inspiration. I work with youth of Hispanic families, and was particularly glad to read "Santarello". Thanks and Blessings! **MR 02.09.13**