

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

*Handouts n. 218*

“Clear, Brief and Easily Assimilated by all”

## Open Letter to Australian Successors of the Apostles

Today's urgency is for **A VOICE** to be heard once more  
for Jesus Christ

Dear Archbishops and Bishops,

### ***Our Christian Voice has been temporarily muted***

**Our forebears brought the knowledge & love of Jesus Christ to Australia in 1788.**

Apart from Catholic Irish convicts, most of those forebears were Protestant, Separated Brethren.

But they were Christian, albeit inadequately so, yet good enough for Governor Arthur Phillip, when wounded by an aborigine's spear at Manly, to refuse to let his soldiers fire on them. Likewise Lieutenant Dawes was a conscientious objector to shooting at aborigines.

**Christianity, Catholic and Protestant, has been, until recently, the religion that has made Australia so desirable for those fleeing from less happier lands.**

Now a civilization of advanced morals and religion, arts and science, depends on a culture. Our once basically happy society was the result of former Christian civilization. A culture depends on valuing the moral virtues. These virtues are to be found in their widespread acceptance by those religions which uphold natural moral law.

**Today's EN-DARKEN-MENT rejects religion, reason, respect & personal responsibility**

The **rising** voice of “wokery” is an endarkenment. It is negative, and totally detrimental to civilized society. Some examples of its detrimental negativity are:

- absences of God, Godliness, conscience, duty and goodwill,
- hence broken marriages and bitterness, children enslaved in welfare. excessive welfare taxation,
- abolition of family, and the Marxist style of upbringing and schooling.

**THEREFORE we can and must invite and persuade our fellow Australian citizens:**

- **to believe in God, the Creator awesome and wondrous;**
- to learn from science that the **order** in nature derives from a **design** by an **intelligence;**
- **to heed the Maker's Instructions** about worship and morals;
- to recite the **Lord's Prayer** every morning and night;
- to invite them to join us in **adoration of God** at a noble celebration of Sunday Mass;
- to share with us in bringing our Good News to the **Alliance for Responsible Citizenship.**

And a very blessed Advent & Christmas with an Epiphany-style year in 2024 to you and yours.

Begging your blessing and in all sincerity and obedience in our Lord, I remain,

*James Tierney*

Rev. Father

Born 1935; Convert 1955; Priest 1964; originally A/diocese Sydney, now Broken Bay; retirement apostolate as in letterhead

# Alliance for Responsible Citizenship

**Our Christian contribution to the secular reform  
is a restoration of God and Godliness, i.e. religion and morality**

## **Natural Morality**

**Natural Morality** is built-in to man's nature, i.e. Natural Moral Law, Natural Law, is knowable by reason even without revelation, – so *non-Christians can be expected to observe it*, though revealed as well in the Ten Commandment.

**NO ONE CAN NEGATE IN-BUILT MORALS,  
not even politicians and professors**

It was taught and practised by non-Christians, like **Cicero**, a pagan Roman lawyer, 106-43 B.C.:-

**I**F IT WERE NOT grounded in nature there would be no justice, and all virtues would cease to exist.

How otherwise can magnanimity, love of one's country, *pietas*, meriting the good opinion of others and honouring obligations, exist? For these arise from the fact that we are by *nature* inclined to love our fellow men. This is the foundation of justice. Were this not so, then respect for our fellow men, and for the ceremonies and religions of the gods would cease – things that must be preserved, not out of fear but because of the link that exists between man and God [*in coniunctione quae est homini cum deo*]. If what is *just* is decided by the will of the people, or by decrees of princes or sentences of judges, then thievery could be lawful, as could adultery and perjury – if such were determined by the votes or opinions of the mob. Were such power to arise from the opinions and commands of unwise people, then by their will the very nature of things would be turned on its head. What is to stop such people declaring evil and pernicious things to be good and sound? If such law' [based on opinion] can make unjust things *just*, what's to stop it making evil things, good?

Nature is the norm that enables us to distinguish a good law from a bad one. And it's not only justice and injustice that are judged by their nature, but also, of course, what is honourable and what is dishonourable. For, as common sense makes clear to us, and instils in our minds from our very beginnings, honour is derived from virtue, and dishonour from vice. It would be madness to think that their reality is determined by people's opinion rather than by their very essence.

Cicero, *De Legibus, Liber Primus §§43-45*;

transl. by Father Paul Stenhouse MSC, *Annals Australasia* 2/2017

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**Cicero** speaks of it again in another passage:-

**T**HERE IS in fact a true law, namely **right reason**, which is in accordance with nature, applies to all men, and is unchangeable and eternal. By its commands this law summons men to the performance of their duties; by its prohibitions it restrains them from doing wrong. Its commands and prohibitions always influence good men, but are without effect upon the bad.

**To invalidate this law by human legislation is never morally right**, nor is it permissible ever to restrict its operation and to annul it wholly is impossible.

Neither the Senate [of ancient republican Rome] nor the people can absolve us from our obligation to obey this law, and it requires no Sextus Aelius [a famous politician] to expound and interpret it. It will not lay down one rule at Rome and another at Athens, nor will it be one rule today and another tomorrow. But there will be one law, eternal and unchangeable, binding at all times and upon all peoples; and there will be, as it were, one common master and ruler of men, namely God, who is the author of this law, its interpreter and its sponsor.

Cicero, *Republic III, 22*

(trans. by Brother Christian Moe FSC)

## **Christian Morality**

Man's imitation of God's goodwill made know to us by revelation of Jesus Christ

### **GOD, the CREATOR & JUDGE**

All who would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him

Hebrews 11:6

Ever since the creation of the world His [God's] invisible nature, namely, His eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made.

Romans 1:19-20; cf. Wisdom 13

### **CONSCIENCE & FREE WILL**

Common sense affirms **free will**, that:-

- Behaviour is subject to our free will.
- Behaviour is purposive.
- Behaviour has consequences.
- Behaviour has responsibilities.
- Behaviour is subject to judgement.

They [the non-Jews] show that the law is written on their hearts, while their **conscience** also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them.

Romans 2:15; cf. Wisdom 13

### **WHAT'S TO BE DONE**

- We need to make it clear that our call to every one to *practise natural morality* is **not imposing our religion on them**.
- It's reasonable to prefer Catholics & other Christians for public office because it *profits everyone* that they are solemnly **committed to integrity** in their hope for Heaven and to avoid Hell.

*Father James Tierney*