

# GOOD NEWS

**“Teach all Nation to observe all I have commanded you”** (Matthew 28:19-20)

Christians! Please bring God to Australia and bring Australia to God.

## Godless & Joyless

### Our spiritually-starved countrymen

Many Australians live empty lives bereft of any noble meaning, or any purpose but themselves.

Satan promotes an insatiable itch for  
sinful pleasure,  
popular acclaim  
power over others.

As regards God, many of our citizens are **atheists** – for them, “There is no God.”

**agnostics** – who say, “I don’t know if there is.”

**worldly** – “I don’t let God interfere with me.”

**S**ATAN specialises in distracting their thoughts from God. He uses sex, speed, sound, dreams, drink and drugs.

They haven’t time or inclination to think of life as a test – before Death, Judgement, Heaven or Hell. Their last hope of avoiding Hell will be Works of Mercy done to the needy, by gifts of food, drink, shelter, clothing, and visits to the sick & imprisoned, because these will count as done to Jesus Himself.

Day of Judgement, Matthew 25:31-46; John 15:12

### A SPIRIT WORLD of God and human souls

The Creator is cloaked unseen, invisible.  
So are our souls.

Atheists often reject the most obvious powers of the soul, namely freewill and conscience, especially when they prove inconvenient. Besides, these are somewhat illogical without God.

It is conscience that judges the moral choices made by freewill, and recognises duty, responsibility and accountability, to which freewill says ‘yes’ or ‘no’. Conscience is not a separate power of the soul, but the interaction between intellect and freewill.

## Godly & Joyful

### Christians: be holy & evangelise

A Christian should be living a life full of purpose, striving to build up the Kingdom of God.

Jesus Christ calls us all to “Repent and believe”  
by temperance in pleasures  
virtue always  
humbly helping others find God.

Christians are well situated to guide Godward the unbelieving atheists, agnostics and the worldly who walk in darkness, mists and fogs. It is not by a jump in the dark, but by a leap into the light of Life.

**C**HRI<sup>S</sup>T is the Way, the Truth and the Life, the only Lamp lighting mankind to His Father.

His speciality is goodwill.

Goodwill is to “will the good” – this is love.

Our mission depends most of all on giving the good example of a virtuous life. It will be fruitful in proportion to our patience and kindness, prayer and penance. And we must “be able to give them a reason for the hope that is in us” – (1 Peter 3:15).

### REASONS for HOPE amidst life’s challenges

God made us in His image and likeness [our dignity], to know, love and serve Him here on earth [our duty], and to see and enjoy Him forever in Heaven [our destiny].

Genesis 1:2-27; Deuteronomy 10:12; Matthew 6:20; John 14:2

Dignity, duty, destiny: simple to understand, so desirable, and trumping atheistic alternatives.

After Death comes Judgement (Hebrews 9:27), for Heaven or Hell forever – so our moral life must become an imitation of God’s own great goodwill.

“Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.”

St Augustine

# Lead, Follow or GET OUT of the WAY

## LEADERSHIP – GOD EXPECTS IT OF...

Fathers and Mothers of families  
Older boys & girls, and the unmarried  
Religious Monks and Nuns  
Priests and Bishops and Pope

Their leadership is from the sacraments they enjoy and the circumstances of their vocation from God.

## VATICAN COUNCIL II on the APOSTOLATE

To intensify the apostolic activity of the **people of God**, the most holy synod earnestly addresses itself to **the laity**, whose proper and indispensable role in the **mission of the Church** has already been dealt with in other documents. The apostolate of the laity derives from their **Christian vocation** and the Church can never be without it...

*Apostolicam Actuositatem* AA 1 "Apostolate of Laity"

In the Church there is a diversity of ministry but a oneness of mission. Christ conferred on the Apostles and their successors the duty of **teaching, sanctifying, and ruling** in His name and power. But the laity likewise share in the **priestly, prophetic, and royal** office of Christ and therefore have their own share in the mission of the whole people of God in the Church and in the world. AA 2

The clergy activate the laity in their lay apostolate, which includes the Church's mission to everyone.

## WHERE TO START

*Quidquid recipitur per modum recipientis recipitur.*

**Whatever is received is received according to the measure of the recipient.**

So whether worldly, agnostic or atheist, start from where they are at. Ask them to tell you. Build on their experiences. Use Socratic dialogue.

## TRUE & FALSE, GOOD & EVIL, RIGHT & WRONG

Whence come such categories of daily speech and thought if not implanted in souls by the Creator?

If confronted by a confused academic's "my truth is not your truth", use *argumenum ad hominem*:

"So *your truth* is that Blog's ute rammed your car? What if *his truth* denies it happened? No matter who is to blame, both vehicles have dents in them. Facts are facts. Truth can't vanish at whim."

"Again, you reject the Ten Commandments – until your own children rebel and won't obey you, or someone murders your son, or has an affair with your wife, or steals your car, or tells lies that put you in jail. After that, you abandon egotistic individualism and, with most of mankind, admit there are moral absolutes, binding on everyone, always."

## TRUTH, BEAUTY, GOODNESS

Whence Truth, Beauty, Goodness – the transcendentals? Such noble ideas and ideals should elicit wonderment at our privileged sharing in Godly qualities. Our duty is to honour and imitate them.

## THE SUFFERINGS which God permits. WHY!

God gave us freewill, the power to choose between many good things, and even to choose evil.

God insists on us making choices for ourselves and on our taking the consequences of our choices.

Alas! We often suffer from the evil choices of others and, not so obviously, others suffer from ours.

Christians have the advantage of making a mental offering of their suffering, as a share in Christ's awesome sufferings of His body and soul in His Passion and Sacrificial Death by crucifixion.

From this comes joyful hope of Resurrection.

## IT IS UNSCIENTIFIC to IGNORE or DENY GOD

Science looks for reasons to explain the way things are, their nature. It looks for the causes that produced them, because nothing happens without a cause. From observation, science assumes that nature is rational, so that investigation by the experimental method makes sense.

The experimental method was codified by Francis Bacon, but known and utilised for millennia by farmers, cooks and aboriginal trackers. It's like logic: Aristotle codified what was common sense.

Once unbelievers recognise that **behaviour is purposive**, that nothing changes or comes to be without a **causal explanation**, that **everything has a cause**, they should reason to a First Cause, an **Uncaused Cause**, a Supreme Being who made all else and so is contingent on Him.

## EVOLUTION?

Astro-physicist Sir Fred Hoyle converted from atheism when he realised that evolution was even less likely than a tornado blowing through a junk yard producing a jumbo jet.

Evolution had been popularised by Haeckel's fraudulent pictures of foetuses. Then Piltdown Man was proved a scientific fraud. Later science of DNA & RNA proved evolution to be impossible.

## O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL – and joyfully!

Let us mount **a mission** to Australia, to all who've nothing to live for, and to lapsed Christians.

Come, ye family people. Come, ye parish priest. Come, ye Successors of the Apostles.

At least, suggest to everyone to try saying the *Our Father* morning & night as an experiment.

Father James Tierney