

2018 Lent through Easter Rector's Musing

In our 2018 Lenten Series on our reflection upon 'Jonah & the Big Fish', one of our sessions is on 'who repents: the Ninevites, God or Jonah?'

Without duplicating or pre-empting our contemplation for that session, perhaps we can take a quick look at the responses on 'metanoia' (turn around/repent) of these three beings/group of beings in the Book of Jonah:-

- The King of Nineveh decreed all shall fast and turn from their evil ways . . . and from the violence that is in them, and they did.
- God (then) changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.
- But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry . . . and asked that he might die.

Our Lenten journey walks us onto Holy Week – to walk in the footsteps of Christ, to take up our cross, and then by the power of the Holy spirit to walk on through death into abundant new life. Nobody can tread this path if death is preferred over life, if darkness is preferred over reconciliation. And hence we see metanoia from the Ninevites, and from God, but not from Jonah.

Do we really opt for life, light, peace and reconciliation in all facets of our daily life? Are we thrilled for Christ's materializing for us such option, through Good Friday and Easter? Time is ripe for us to take 'metanoia' seriously. Let's all opt for Lenten metanoia to gain access to the blessings of Holy Week, and to share such Good News with all sojourns on our way. Amen.

In Christ,

Paula Lee



2018 大齋至聖週及復活節牧者隨筆

在今年的大齋節講座中，我們一起反思上主藉「約拿與大魚」給我們的啓示。當中有一節講座我們會去思考有關悔改（回轉）的基要主題。

在不妨礙該環節的討論與反思的大前題下，我們可以簡單的看看經文中尼尼微人、上帝和約拿如何參與「回轉」。

- 尼尼微人。。。宣告禁食。。。各人回頭離開所行的惡道，丟棄手中的強暴。
- 上帝察看他們的行爲，見他們離開惡道，祂就後悔，不把所說的災禍降與他們了。
- 這事約拿大大不悅，且甚發怒。。。為自己求死。

我們透過大齋旅程走向聖週 - 跟隨主腳蹤來背負自己的十架，就靠主力量走過死亡去進入豐盛的新生。無人可走這路，除非他願得生命而非死亡，願進光明而非待在黑暗中，願得平安而非活於怒氣中，願藉復和以破解怨恨。這就是為何我們從上面的經文中看看尼尼微人和上帝的「回轉」而約拿則不願「回轉」而寧可求死。

我們可願意在日常生活的各個層面中選擇生命、光明、平安與復和？那我們豈不該為基督藉十架與復和給我們「落實」這選擇而稱慶？那現在就是時候讓我們嚴肅地面對「回轉」這主題，好好的在大齋節期裏處理我們須面對的各樣大大小小的回轉/悔改，以步進聖週的祝福裏，並可把這福音跟我們在路上遇到的其他客旅一起分享。啊們。

主內

李志敏

