

Challenge yes or no to mission - Lent 3

The need to become a community which resists those things which deprive us of life and instead embraces the love of God.

Joy of the Gospel Chapter 2

The spiritual life comes to be identified with a few religious exercises which can offer a certain comfort but which do not encourage encounter with others, engagement with the world or a passion for evangelisation.

One of the more serious temptations (for individual Christians) which stifles boldness and zeal is a defeatism which turns us into querulous and disillusioned pessimists, sourpusses.

And so the biggest threat of all (to Christian Communities) gradually takes shape: *the grey pragmatism of the daily life of the Church, in which all appears to proceed normally, which in reality faith is wearing down and degenerating into small-mindedness.*

Challenges exist to be overcome! Let us be realists, but without losing our joy, our boldness and our hope-filled commitment.

1 Peter 2.9-12

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honourable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.

Ponderoid

Does our Christian community look like mummies in a museum or a joy-filled magnificent missionary congregation?