

Jesus with Open Arms

At the entrance of our parish church is a stained-glass window depicting Jesus with open arms. As inspiration, the artist who was commissioned to craft this window was given the passage from Matthew 11:28-30.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”

What’s sort of space opens before us as we are approached by Jesus? A space where all are welcome. All? Yes ... all!

What does that mean? It means that people I do not agree with or even get along with are there alongside me. It means people I do not always understand are by my shoulder. In the presence of Jesus our human differences which we value so, melt away, and all that remains is our common humanity and the awareness that God’s grace is unlike anything we have experienced.

The love that welcomes me extends to everyone. No one is left out!

The hope of the Christian community is to be a space of such a welcome, a space where we can find beauty in the ritual of worship, a space where we encounter a passion for social justice within every aspect of human endeavour, a space where we stand in awe as we hear from our sacred writings passed down to us from our ancestors.

We don’t always do this well but that is no reason not to continue to strive to enact God’s vision for us all, and our commitment to this work is both our task and also our gift.

