

“In our families we learn to recognise the dignity of all.”

– Pope Francis

WEEK 6: PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PALM SUNDAY 05 APRIL 2020

REFLECTION/HOMILY NOTES

The Holy Week story highlights the struggle for communion and solidarity in the midst of great challenges, injustice and suffering. Today's gospel readings offer us great contrast. We can see ourselves in the crowds amongst those who were jubilant, crying 'Hosanna' as Jesus enters Jerusalem to then find the crowd shouting 'Crucify him' just a few days later. Like Peter, Judas and the other disciples, we too can be fickle followers of Jesus.

In the Passion we see the suffering of Jesus as he is beaten, scourged and ridiculed. He is treated unjustly as a notorious thief is chosen for release over Jesus. Jesus is deserted by his closest friends and it is only a Gentile centurion, Mary and a group of faithful women who remain at the foot of the cross. At the end, Jesus even feels deserted by his Father asking 'why have you abandoned me?'

In the Project Compassion story this week Dominic shares how he was liberated from his pattern of domestic violence. Just as Mary and the faithful women remained at the foot of the cross with Jesus, Dominic's wife and family chose to remain with him on his journey

to wholeness. His participation in the Caritas Australia supported program at the Center of Hope in Papua New Guinea bought light back to his family. By opening himself up to the process of counselling with Christophylda, his wife, he was able to learn new ways to manage his behaviour and attitudes, bringing new life to his family where there was once fear and darkness.

Dominic is also bringing change to his community as he now works as an advocate, challenging gender-based violence and sharing his testimony of change. Having people speak from their own experience leads others to challenge their own behaviour through its authenticity.

We can identify with much of Jesus' suffering, in our own lives and the lives of people close to us. We can take comfort and consolation in that Jesus identifies with the suffering of the human race. We now know that the story doesn't end there, that there is the resurrection yet to come. Sadness and death give way to new life.

As we journey through Holy Week, will we keep in mind our sisters and brothers who suffer?



DOMINIC. PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Dominic, forty-seven, is a father of six from Papua New Guinea. In 2016, he became involved with Caritas Australia's partner, Centre of Hope, which runs safe house and family anonymous programs and turned a difficult life and an unhappy relationship around.

Now a community trainer, he works with other men to help them to change their behaviour and build more harmonious family lives.

Domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and limited employment opportunities mean that many in PNG struggle to meet their basic family needs. Forty percent of its population live below the poverty line.

In 2016, Caritas Australia and its PNG partner, Centre of Hope, invited Dominic to join its Safe House program. It provides Gender-Based-Violence prevention training, counselling services and safe accommodation for women and children survivors of violence. It also provides support for income-generating projects and life skills for young people.

"After entering the Caritas program, I have actually changed some of my bad attitudes. It has really opened my mind and heart to see where my weaknesses are and I'm trying to improve," Dominic says.

Please help support the Safe House project and help bring greater harmony to families in Papua New Guinea. A brighter future for men, women and their families can start today. Let's Go Further, Together.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We pray for all those affected by gender-based violence. May we continue to support organisations like Caritas Australia who are working to build lasting peace within families and within communities.

FUNDRAISING IDEA

Encourage each parishioner to make a donation on Easter Sunday using the Project Compassion Easter Envelope distributed by a volunteer at the door as parishioners enter or leave Mass (contact your Diocesan Director for envelopes if these have not been provided). Remember to turn over your Project Compassion poster after Easter to show the Project Compassion Thank You poster, acknowledging the generosity of parishioners this year.

BULLETIN NOTICE

Dominic, 47, is a father of six from Papua New Guinea. In 2016, he became involved with Caritas Australia's partner, Centre of Hope who runs safe house and family anonymous programs and turned a difficult life and an unhappy relationship around.