

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR: Well it's been a week since surgery and I have to admit I am finding hard to sit still, but at the same time am catching up on some much needed rest. Surgery went well, but there was a lot more bruising and swelling than expected. For the first few days I didn't move a lot, was on a lot of pain medication and slept a lot. After the first week I am on the mend. My right leg is healing well, but my left leg is another story... still extremely bruised and a lot of swelling, but I am getting up with my cane and walking the corridor from my kitchen to my front entrance a couple of times a day. I did manage to slowly get in the car and do a very short drive. Getting in and out was difficult but driving was not so bad since I use my right leg. I see my surgeon again on the 23rd. and hope to come in and say hello and have a coffee. I plan to come back to celebrate Mass on Saturday and Sunday on the weekend of the 27th.

Thanks to all of you for the beautiful flower basket and fruit basket from the Parish, for the many cards I have received in the mail and for your love and prayers. Thank for those who have stepped up to continue with much of the work I would be doing in the kitchen... When I come back I will have to rely on more help, especially with catering since I will have restriction placed on me for standing and lifting for a fair period. But I do look forward to coming back.

During this time much has been going on in the world, heartbreaking violence fuelled by fear and ignorance, hatred that is very disturbing, even from people who dare call themselves Christians. It is hard to believe that in 2017 we are still reliving hatred and prejudices from the past. I guess human nature makes it easier to blame others for our problems than to accept responsibility for our own. None of us enters into this world with prejudice and hate... we come innocent and these notions are completely foreign. In childhood years we live with and play with friends of different faiths, colours and cultures - and we all get along. No, hatred and prejudice is taught and learned. It is sad that after over 2000 years of Christ's message of love and acceptance even the Church can at times instil these values in us. As

children many of us were indoctrinated, being told if someone wasn't Catholic they were going to hell, and if we dared count them among our friends we were to. The Jews were Christ Killers, the Blacks were to be feared... even between Eastern and Western Rites there was ignorance and constant struggle, each looking at the other with loathing and distrust.

Change in our world can only come for you and I. You and I must learn about others, hear their stories, listen about their life's journey.. and try to change hearts by hearts. Denying there is a problem doesn't mean it doesn't exist. Things do not change and go away on their own. We need to pray always that our hearts be like the heart of Christ, that we seek to understand rather than to judge or incite hatred - if we are not willing to make this effort - then claiming we are Christians is nothing but hypocrisy - we are wolves in sheep's clothing - let this parish always be a beacon of light in our dark world - let us allow the good news of Jesus to transform us - that through our example we can make a difference, even if small. Squash prejudice when you hear it, do not allow hate speech, walk away from gossip and judgement - seek only the highest truth - that of Christ who opens our eyes and our hearts to all that is good and pure, all that is loving and forgiving, all that is just and pure. God bless. I look forward to seeing with you again soon.