

### *Pictures of peace*

St Philip's Anglican Church, O'Connor  
Di Priest, Director, School Chaplaincy ACT  
Second Sunday of Easter — 7 April 2013

*John 20.19-30*

Di Priest told us about the work of school chaplains in the ACT. In today's Gospel, the resurrected Jesus spoke to his disciples and said, "Peace be with you!". A power-filled greeting indeed!

Then he breathed on them the breath of the Spirit.

Chaplains live out the peace of Christ and share His peace in their school community.

Di shared this poem of hers about peace (reproduced with her permission):

#### **Pictures of peace**

Peace is not in forgetting  
The shadows of the past give  
Shape to the present  
Burial is never an end

Peace is not in being busy  
Worn striving and weary stumbling  
Rushing to perceive the rules,  
Seeking acceptance

Peace is not in remaining aloof  
The lonely untouched life  
Corrosive rust that renders us  
Brittle and weak

Peace is not in the silent inactivity  
That comes from lethargy  
Surface sweetness and  
Compromise

Peace is the suckled infant  
Lying close to God's mother heart  
Warm, secure,  
Held in an adoring gaze

Peace knows the Father's strength  
Sovereign power  
Present within the storm

Peace is yielding all  
Brokenness, confusion  
And imperfection  
Seeing beauty in God's creation

Peace is a focus of energy  
Meeting needs within needs  
Nurturing fellowship

Peace is felt in laughter  
Free movement towards wholeness  
Delight, playful abandonment in the moment

Peace is God's perfect gift  
Purpose, positive and  
Pleasing when known

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School Chaplaincy ACT is the leading provider of School Chaplains in the Territory. Through positive and supportive relationships, School Chaplaincy ACT aims to help young people with everyday life issues, as well as the more critical ones like substance abuse, relationship issues, family breakdown, stress, anxiety and low self-esteem.

More than ever, our children and young people need positive role models and strong values. As adults, we want our kids to develop skills and strategies to break negative cycles in their lives.

School Chaplaincy ACT chaplains provide spiritual and emotional support to school communities. They are in the prevention and support business: helping students find a better way to deal with issues ranging from family breakdown and loneliness to drug abuse, stress and anxiety. They provide a listening ear and a caring presence for kids in crisis and those who just need a friend. They also provide support for staff and parents in school communities.