



AUC NEWS

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Easter: The Heart of the Matter

In *The Crucified God* Jurgen Moltmann challenges those who believe in a god who doesn't suffer or who think that God cannot exist in a world of suffering, by showing the costly, triumphant love of God in the crucified and risen Jesus. At Easter, he says, we should rejoice in the fact that God is neither a distant, heartless Fate nor the helpless victim of evil.

In face of suffering caused by human brutality, the crucifixion of Christ displays the profound, sacrificial love of God. *To speak here of a God who could not suffer would make God a demon. To speak here of an absolute God would make God an annihilating nothingness. To speak here of an indifferent God would condemn us to indifference.*

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is also a sign that the crucified God triumphs over evil. *The new and scandalous element in the Christian message of Easter was not that some man or other was raised before anyone else, but that the one who was raised was this condemned, executed and forsaken man.*

At Easter, then, we celebrate the resurrection of the crucified Christ and the crucifixion of the risen Christ. In this event, evil is named, challenged and defeated as the result of God's costly love. Happy Easter to you all!

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Around the Parish:

First Sunday program is on 2 May & 6 June; *UCF* on 27 April, 25 May & 22 June; '*Cornwall*' Committee on 7 April & 2 June, Zoya Borland is 90! Emily Milner has had a few weeks 'back in the US of A'; *Good News Time* continues during school term; After-Church *Lenten Studies* have created such a lot of interest that we will use the same format for another series in May or June. *Pastoral concerns* include Laurel Stobie, Betty Just, Dorothy Garnett, Norma McNolty, Marjorie Lade, Edyth Rawson (St Josephs), Tom Steel, Mary Crosbie and Ivy Duggan (MECWA Prahlan), Frances Summons, Kath McIver, Ruth Sambell, Shirley Bolduan, Mabel Robinson (Mont Calm).