

Dear Friends,

Like millions of others across the globe, I have been distressed by the result of the recent US election. What was expected to be a close-run contest turned out to be a decisive victory for Donald Trump, surely the most dangerous individual ever to occupy the White House. Instead of repudiating his demagoguery, a majority of American voters from nearly all demographic groups have again endorsed it. Yet a second Trump presidency shows every sign of further destabilizing a world already beset by crises. Critics both in the United States and abroad have very good reason to be anxious about what will come next.

In our Old Testament reading this Sunday (Daniel 12. 1-3), the angel tells Daniel that 'there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered' (v.1). In a similar vein, we find Jesus in the Gospel reading (Mark 13. 1-8) anticipating an age of chaos and destruction, while still assuring his disciples that 'when you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is not yet' (v 7). Together, what these prophecies assume is that no matter how bad things get, God remains in charge. It isn't always easy to believe this. But our Christian calling is to keep faith amidst doubt and to look for signs of God's redeeming work wherever we can. If we do not look, we will not find. If we do look, we will be amazed by where such signs appear.

Meanwhile, in our local community, there are immediate reasons for joy and thanksgiving. Three baby boys have recently been born to couples in our congregation. On 30 October, Sami Zarbafi Mattei was born to Helia Zarbafi and Felipe Mattei. On 3 November, both Jonas Kovacs, son of Karolina and Daniel Kovacs, and Noah Lyons-Allen, son of Sophie and Jack Lyons-Allen, arrived. *Deo gratias!*

Finally, I attach to this mailing Bishop Christopher's 13 November letter to the Diocese regarding the Makin Review report and the decision of the Archbishop of Canterbury to resign his See in light of the Review's findings. Please keep Archbishop Justin, his family, and the whole Church in your prayers during this difficult time.

Yours faithfully,
Robert

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