

OPINION PIECE GOOD FRIDAY 10TH APRIL 2020 BISHOP BRIAN TAMAKI

Why on the weekend of two of the greatest events to ever happen in human history (the Crucifying of Christ and His Resurrection from the dead three days later) do over 80% of the New Zealand population typically head off to the Beach Bach (hopefully not this lockdown weekend though), to holiday destinations, or they engage in a whole lot of other pursuits?

The commercial trade of Easter Eggs, Easter Bunnies and Hot Cross buns (my favourites too with heaps of butter) are now more popular than celebrating anything to do with Jesus Christ!

Boy, Oh how we as a nation have turned off from the true meaning of what we call Easter, or in the Jewish calendar 'The Passover' (when the Angel of Death passed over homes who had The Blood over the door).

Even this week, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern attempted to cheer us all up while under Lockdown, as she talked of Tooth Fairies and Easter Bunnies being "Essential Workers" that may visit your house. Really? There must be tears in Heaven right now at the way humanity, specifically us New Zealanders, are treating God's ultimate offering of unimaginable Love, Forgiveness and New Life.

I'm talking about the excruciating six-hour agonizing death Christ suffered on a Wooden Cross for all our wrongs and sins, just so God, The Father, could forgive us! Then not to just stop there, Oh no, there is Great News, He was also raised from the dead three days later by The Power of God (The Resurrection). He did all this so you and I could have the opportunity to live a New Life in Christ!

That's the real meaning of Easter, New Zealand! Sorry Jacinda, but you and the Tooth Fairy are one and the same, not 'Essential' to the reality of this occasion.

It would be so good while in Lockdown that Dads and Mums would first, between them, discuss who is Jesus Christ and what does He mean to you? Maybe find that old Bible tucked away, or if you don't have one, go online and look up this reference in The New Testament...1 John 1:7. This verse talks about The Blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin. Boy, we all definitely need that at times in our life.

Easter is about your children having the opportunity to be asked: "Who is Jesus Christ?". "What did He do for you personally?" Then talk about how Christ can be with them, in their heart for the rest of their lives. He is always there for them, they need never be alone. Jesus Christ can be their Life Source, giving them abundant life.

So let me finish by saying Big-Ups to the eggs, bunnies, Jacinda and her fairies...but on this weekend, celebrating these momentous events, they are not real! Only Jesus Christ is the real deal!

