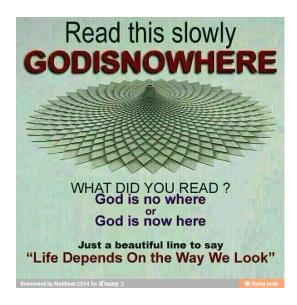
# The HOLY FROG Blog

# GOD is NOWHERE!

Sounds a strange title for a christian chaplain to put out there doesn't it? Stick with me though. As staff met together last week to prepare for the coming term, an important part of our time was given to reflect on **WHAT** it means to be a worshipping Christian School. **WHEN** we make time for worship is a key factor for us as a school community. But, before we understand **HOW** it makes a difference to the way we live and in order to know **WHICH** form of worship really connects with us, we need to know more about **WHO** we worship and **WHY**.



During one of the sessions, these words were displayed - **GOD IS NOWHERE.** Each letter on a different page, held up by volunteers. In the past few months there has been a lot of sadness, anxiety and isolation. Some people consider that because bad things happen, a loving God can't exist - **GOD IS NOWHERE.** You make the best of what you can however you can for as long as you can! However, We were then invited to take a moment to consider how we might look at life from a different perspective and bring to mind all the good things that we experience too. As we did this, the two volunteers holding the letters 'W' and 'H' made space between them so that the statement read- **GOD IS NOW HERE!** 

Same letters, just a space in-between that made a world of difference; And that's the opportunity of 'worship', to make some space, take a time-out, free from distractions, and view life with God in the picture. Really sad things happen of course, yet rather than facing these situations alone, it is reassuring to contemplate that if **GOD IS HERE NOW** then there is hope! So the natural question is...

...if **GOD IS NOW HERE**, how can I see him?

Do I have to wait for Eucharist at the end of term?

Do I have to read the WHOLE BIBLE?

Pray for 24 hours a day?

All of these 'acts of worship' play a part in getting to understand God and the Bible is a good place to start as it has many stories of people who asked the exact same question "Where is God?"; and the simplest answer I know, would be **Look at Jesus!**(Can you see him in the crowd by the way?)



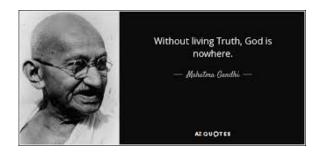


Jesus said that if you have seen me and spent time listening to my words then you have seen God - we are one and the same! Quite a statement isn't it! One that got him into a lot of interesting discussions and a fair amount of trouble. Yet even those closest to Jesus, his own disciples, didn't quite get it the first time.

8 Philip (one of the disciples) said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." 9Jesus replied, "Philip, I have been with you all this time, and still you do not know Me? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I say to you, I do not speak on My own. Instead, it is the Father dwelling in Me, performing His works....JOHN 14:8-10

#### SO WHAT does that mean for us this week?

Jesus is saying that if people want to know what God is like, his character, his intentions and love for people, then 'look at me'. In the coming weeks, I want to introduce you to this Jesus as we reflect on the words he spoke about himself, our relationship with God and in particular what he taught his followers about living real life, in faith, as community.



Jesus not only talked about all this but actually lived it out in life, full on claiming that **GOD IS NOW HERE!** This seems too simple to believe right? But over the centuries MANY people have done just that and they live their lives with a different perspective - through good times and bad, with hope.

Sometimes it's easy to take everything we have for granted. Our minds can get so wrapped up in our struggles and all the things we need to do during the week that we forget to even think about God let alone thank him for all the good things He's provided for us like our health, our wellbeing and our loved one's presence in our life: And that's OK but maybe worship times in school can be that space for YOU to reflect.

## CHAPLAIN'S CHALLENGE:

- 1.Design a poster based on "God is Now Here" put it on your form prayer board.
- 2. How do you see life today with or without God?
- 3. Who do you worship? What difference does this make to your life?
- 4. "God is nearer than you think!" In what ways might this be true?
- 5. Write a prayer of thanks for staff that give hours of planning and hard work to make the school safe for us to return: show your appreciation by following the guidance.
- 6. Ghandi admired the teachings of Jesus discuss Ghandi's quote on "living truth".



## **Read and Reflect:**

The **Lord** is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Psalm 145: 18-19

<u>PRAYER:</u> We ask that as we reflect on what it means to be a worshipping Christian School and we make time for worship individually and as a school community, that we will understand how inviting YOU into our life makes a difference to the way we live. Amen.