



Dear Friends,

Easter is slowly dawning in me. I'm stuck in the doorway of the tomb. I can see the light but find it difficult to stay in it. The good thing is that Easter is alive in other people. I'd like to share with you an email from Trish. She will receive our collections of books.

Dear Annie,

I just watched the last instalment of The Reflection and just wanted to write again and thank you and congratulate the team on a beautiful and meaningful reflection. As I shared before I have been a carer during Lent an unable to access our parish programmes. I looked forward each week to the new instalment and it always left me with a deep sense of peace, courage and strength to keep on 'caring' during this difficult and challenging time.

My husband also accessed The Refection and after the kids were settled we were able to discuss some of the points as a couple. This was a truly enriching time and one that strengthen our Sacrament.

I guess suffering has been foremost in our mind this Lent as we have watched our son struggle through surgery and then recovery and now is faced with some long term rehab. What The Reflection did for me was to help me realise that there is 'light at the end of the tunnel' and new life after the suffering. The prayerful mediation gave me courage to be joyful and hopeful for our son rather than being overburden with what may have seen as a hopeless situation. The other thing that struck me was that Jesus always reached out to others during His suffering -a good lesson for me to look out for others around me rather than focussing on my own 'suffering'!!

Easter in our household is a huge event. Our three sons have Down syndrome and our youngest (the one who had the surgery) just loves this time of the year. We usually go to the Chrism Mass in our diocese and the boys love seeing the priests and the bishop all together. Holy Thursday is special as we have a real Passover Meal with lamb and non alcoholic wine - usually we rush to Mass so it is a real 'Passover' for us. The boys have a limited understanding of Good Friday but we spend the day in refection and they often ask many questions about Jesus. They participate in the ceremonies and I'm always brought to tears when they venerate the Cross in their own way. But the best celebration, in their eyes, is the Fire Mass on Saturday night. Our parish usually has a great fire and the boys always ensure we all have new Easter candles to take – if not – a new torch is in order. They recognise Jesus in the new light that comes from the Holy fire – a simple understanding but quite powerful to us, their parents!

Thank you again for the privilege to participate. This sort of programme is just great for people who are shut in with illness or disability. It certainly has made many people feel that they are participating in a special way. I strongly encourage you to continue this great initiative.

How blessed are we in Australia to have so many wise, generous and loving Shepherds who truly imitate the Risen Lord!

Thank you again and I pray that the Risen Jesus will bless you and your work in a truly special way,

Blessings,

Trish

Thank you Trish.

**Date Claimer for those who like to book ahead:**

6-8 July, 9am - 4pm

**Community-in-Mission: A Contemporary Theology of the Church, Rev Dr Richard Lennan**

6 July, Evening Lecture

**The Challenge of Catholicity: Becoming a 'catholic' Catholic Church, Rev Dr Richard Lennan**

8 July, Evening Lecture

**Hope and the Church, Rev Dr Richard Lennan**

For more information contact BBI on 02 9847 0030.

God Bless

**Virginia Ryan**

**Adult Faith Education and Pastoral Formation Coordinator**

**The Broken Bay Institute**

**[vrryan@bbi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:vrryan@bbi.catholic.edu.au)**