

THE WORLD-within different contexts!

Saint John writes in his pastoral letter; “that **the world** as we know it is coming to an end.”

Within the scriptures **the world** is understood within 2 different contexts. The first context is that it is a *stage* where God chooses to reveal his presence. We detect this reality in these words; “God so loved **the world** that he sent his only begotten son.” The second reference to **the world** is that it can be a symbol of darkness and opposition to the ways of God, such as when Jesus says to Peter; “Get behind me Satan as you think not of God’s ways but of **the world’s** ways.”

In our own culture and time, **the world** is seen as both a place of light and beauty as well as a place of darkness and depravity. The light and beauty are definitely seen in the widespread individual and corporate works of generous service and healing that is consistently happening. Yet it is also a place where works of darkness and depravity are happening where drug and the sexual exploitation of innocent people is very real.

The reality of Jesus of Nazareth rising to new life at Easter reminds us that the power of light and life is ultimately stronger than the powers of darkness and depravity. The challenge for us all this Easter is to believe in this reality and then allow God’s risen spirit to strengthen and sustain us. *Fr Martin R Maunsell*