

### **MEMORY- its significance!**

The word *memory* when it is used within a religious context is so much more than just the recalling of past facts, figures, and events. *Memory* also recalls the inner significance of these facts, figures, and events and how they have shaped people's lives for the better or the worse.

The Jewish people are especially known to place enormous value on the use of *memory* and how it has shaped them as a people. For example, they have never allowed anyone to forget how the terrible events of the World War II holocaust have shaped who they are. This I believe is the greatest safeguard that this terrible event will not happen again.

Jesus of Nazareth in using his own Jewish heritage placed a great value on *memory* we hear at the Last Supper he says to his apostles; "*that you are to do this in memory of me.*" (Luke 22 verse 19) These words are there to assure us that the significance of his birth, suffering, death, and resurrection will continue to be a life-giving influence for all of his followers.

Within the Christian faith the value of *memory* is vital in enabling believers to look back and appreciate the constant significance of past words recorded and events that have happened. It is *memory* more than anything else that has shaped the traditions of our faith. This is the great strength of the Catholic Church that it is based upon scripture and tradition. *Fr Martin R Maunsell*