

GIVING BIRTH-some challenges!

Les Murray (1938-2019) is perhaps Australia's greatest poet, his brilliant literary career lasted over 40 years and he wrote over 30 volumes of wonderful poetry. Les was also a wise and perceptive social commentator and one of his more poignant comments was; "*that sooner or later (we in Australia) will have to shed blood for living here.*" I hope that he is speaking here by way of metaphor!

As we head towards the end of 2020 more than in living memory we in Australia and beyond our shores are now very aware of the definite levels of our physical freedoms, our capacity to stay adequately employed and the restrictions that we have in travelling freely.

It's so often challenging and painful for any of us to give birth to a new reality. The temptation to fight against or ignore the move towards a new reality can be often counterproductive. Yet new ways of life can and do evolve when old ways of living are let go such as our world is now breathing easier with reduced land, sea and air travel happening. In a personal way people by necessity have more time to be with their loved ones instead of travelling and working away from them so much.

Jesus of Nazareth sums up this reality with this poignant image; "*A woman in childbirth suffers pain but when a child is born her pain turns into joy.*" (John 16 verse 21). *Fr Martin R Maunsell*