

**hope** becomes as broad as the horizon afar, reiterated by every leaf, sung on every bough, reflected in the gleam of every flower. There is so much for us yet to come, as much to be gathered, and enjoyed. Not for you or me, now, but for our race, who will ultimately use this magical secret for their happiness.

Richard Jefferies, *The Pageant of Summer*

William Sykes. *Canterbury Book of Spiritual Quotations*. Hymns Ancient and Modern Ltd. Kindle Edition.



Revd William "Bill" Sykes 1939-2015  
College Chaplain 1965-2005, finishing off as Chaplain and Fellow of University College Oxford.

Below: **HOPE** by Robert Indiana



In our book groups last year we studied "Dare to Lead" by Brené Brown. As part of that study we were asked to narrow down our truest values to just two. This has proved to be quite a challenge for us all, but I think it is becoming clearer for me now.

As I read and pray and reflect, the two values that won't let me go are **justice** and **hope**. I had thought that love might be one of my two, but - if you accept Brené's challenge - there are many you or I can't have; compassion, courage, generosity, integrity, kindness, love, peace, service, truth, for example.

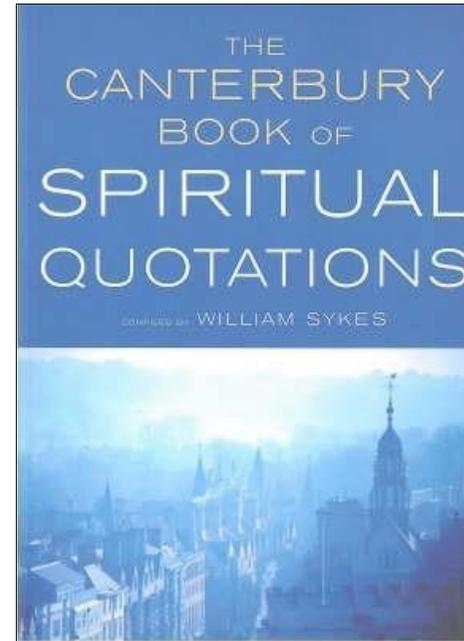
**Justice** comes to the fore every time I listen to the news, hear someone's story or see what some people are up to. Injustice is everywhere and throughout the Gospels I see Jesus calling it out wherever he saw it. **Hope** includes what is not yet, what we cannot yet see. We are all a 'work in progress' and thankfully, even if with people, too many things seem impossible, with God, all things are possible. This gives us **hope** for the days ahead.

Neither of these values are passive - they both require action on our part. I would go as far to say that, without action, any values we might profess are not worth much. We have to play our part with God in the ongoing work of creation, to put our money (and our energies) where our mouth is, so to speak.

You now know the two values that drive me in my journey with God. Please point out to me when I fail to live up to this claim.  
pete

# NAMBUCCA VALLEY ANGLICANS SUNDAY PAPERS

Epiphany 3  
23.01.2022



Today's papers come from "The Canterbury Book of Spiritual Quotations" by Revd Bill Sykes. This is revamped version on Kindle of **Eternal Visions**, a "best of" a series of books published by BRF back in the 1990's which have inspired and challenged me over the years. Last week we looked at **JUSTICE**, this week it is **HOPE**.

This is the second time I have looked at **HOPE** in the Sunday Papers. I have included the issue from 29 August 2021 as it contains different reflections on this very important topic.

## HOPE

**Hope** – expectation and desire combined (of thing, of doing, that); feeling of trust

I remember a programme on TV. A young woman, whose baby son had disappeared some years ago while they were on holiday on a Greek island, was being interviewed. She still hoped he would be found and that they would be reunited. There was something inside her which gave her hope. An important verse of scripture is: 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' One of God's attributes is 'hope'. As a consequence of the divine inbreathing a seed or a spark of this 'God of hope' resides in the depths of our being. This can be catalysed and brought to life. When we reflect and contemplate on the contents of this topic the source of hope already in us can come alive so that 'by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope'. The odds were stacked against Jesus, but he was rooted and grounded in hope, and went out to transform the world. His work continues, and we are invited to play our part – in hope.

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we **hope** in you.

Psalm 33:22

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living **hope** through the resurrection resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1:3–4

... entertain him with **hope** ...

William Shakespeare,  
*The Merry Wives of Windsor*

**Hope** in action is charity, and beauty in action is goodness.

Miguel de Unamuno,  
*The Tragic Sense of Life in Men and in Peoples*

The ability to **hope** is the greatest gift that God could make to man.

Carlo Carretto, *Summoned by Love*

**Hope** is itself a species of happiness, and, perhaps, the chief happiness which this world affords.

Samuel Johnson, *Boswell's Life of Johnson*

Ah! If man would but see that **hope** is from within and not from without – that he himself must work out his own salvation.

H. Rider Haggard, *She*

Optimism means faith in men, in the human potentiality; **hope** means faith in God in His omnipotence.

Carlo Carretto, *The Desert in the City*

To **hope** till **Hope** creates From its own wreck the thing it contemplates.

Percy Bysshe Shelley, *'Prometheus Unbound'*

**Hope** is the best possession. None are completely wretched but those who are without **hope**; and few are reduced so low as that.

William Hazlitt, *Characteristics*

The virtue of **hope** is an orientation of the soul towards a transformation after which it will be wholly and exclusively love.

Simone Weil, *Gateway to God*

**Hope** is lived, and it comes alive, when we go outside of ourselves and, in joy and pain take part in the lives of others. It becomes concrete in open community with others.

Jürgen Moltmann, *The Open Church*

**Hope** springs eternal in the human breast: Man never is, but always to be blest.

Alexander Pope, *'An Essay on Man'*

Anything that is found to stimulate **hope** should be seized upon and made to serve. This applies to a book, a film,

a broadcast, or a conversation with someone who can impart it.

Hubert van Zeller, *Considerations*

Christian **Hope** is the consecration of desire, and desire is the hardest thing of all to consecrate. That will only happen as you begin to think how lovely the life according to Christ is.

William Temple, *Christian Faith and Life*

'**Hope**', says St Thomas Aquinas, 'is a divinely infused quality of the soul, whereby with certain trust we expect those good things of the life eternal which are to be attained by the grace of God.'

W.R. Inge,  
*Personal Religion and the Life of Devotion*

He is a God who does not make empty promises for the hereafter nor trivialize the present darkness, futility and meaninglessness, but who himself in the midst of darkness, futility and meaninglessness invites us to the venture of **hope**.

Hans Küng, *On Being a Christian*

Oh, how good a thing it is that the great God who has placed us in this world – where amid so much that is beautiful, there still exists vast bestowal among men of grief, disappointment, and agony – has planted in our bosoms the great sheet-anchor, **Hope**.

Walt Whitman, *The Early Poems and the Fiction*

**Hope** to the last ... Always **hope**; ... Never leave off hoping; ... Don't leave a stone unturned. It's always something to know you've done the most you could. But don't leave off hoping, or it's no use doing anything. **Hope, hope, to the last!**

Charles Dickens, *Nicholas Nickleby*

**Hope** is a completely confident expectation; that sureness and certitude with which the awakened soul aims at God and rests in God. It is the source of that living peace, that zest and alertness, that power of carrying on, which gives its special colour to the genuine Christian life.

Evelyn Underhill, in John Stobart,  
*The Wisdom of Evelyn Underhill*

For if you find **hope** in the ground of history, you are united with the great prophets who were able to look into the depth of their times, who tried to escape it, because they could not stand the horror of their visions, and who yet had the strength to look to an even deeper level and there to discover **hope**.

Paul Tillich, *The Shaking of the Foundations*

Every blade of grass, each leaf, each separate floret and petal, is an inscription of **hope**. Consider the grasses and the oaks, the swallows, the sweet blue butterfly – they are one and all a sign and token showing before our eyes earth made into life ... my