



**ANGLICAN MEDIA**  
**DIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN**

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## **ANGLICAN BISHOP'S EASTER MESSAGE 2016**

Australia has many things to celebrate. While footy is a celebration of athleticism and the ANZACs remind us about courage under fire, Easter demonstrates the importance of second chances.

Second chances are Australia's national story. We're not simply the land of the long weekend but a place where getting a fair go matters.

Our convict forebears arrived on these shores often thinking it was a god-forsaken land. Yet many made a new life for themselves that was simply impossible in the old country.

Dig through anyone's family photo album and you'll see countless stories of second chances. You'll meet ancestors who wanted a fresh start free from all the strife, poverty, vindictiveness and resentment that characterised their villages, cities and nations.

But second chances don't come cheap. Although most of our ancestors discovered fresh opportunities for themselves and their children, indigenous people paid an unjustly high price in the form of dispossession, poverty and invisibility in their own country.

Easter's celebration of Jesus' resurrection is all about second chances, especially by those who don't deserve it. At the cross, we all find the opportunity to start afresh. We find the power to make a new life in its shadow. Through it, we discover the strength that can overcome pride, anger, envy, greed and indifference.

But we only get second chances because of Good Friday. On that dismal day, Jesus died at the hands of people who were only concerned with entrenching their own privilege, passing the buck and profiting from violence. He paid the ultimate price so that we might get a second chance.

God's goodness will not be defeated by evil. By raising Jesus to new life, God brought out the best from the worst that humanity could dish out that day. He does it still, each and every day.

God gives us a second chance so that we might act responsibly and treat others with the kind of dignity and respect that God shows us. It takes courage and honesty to ask a second chance when we're not entitled to it. It takes generosity and goodwill to offer a second chance to someone else, especially when undeserved.

So please enjoy the holiday, fruit buns and all the chocolate eggs you can find or ask for. They all speak about our need for a second chance and how far Jesus went to make it a reality for all of us.

The Right Reverend Stuart Robinson  
***Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn***

To arrange an interview, please contact: The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton, Bishops' Media Officer on 0407 408 333.