

but I did not know Him as Saviour. I did not know the atoning and saving work He accomplished on my behalf. The Jesus I knew was a Saviour who left me to struggle all my life trying to save myself by keeping the Ten Commandments, Sacraments, Prayers and Penance. The more I did, the better chance I had of going to Heaven. I was in fact trying to do what Jesus had already done for me, hoping that in the end with Mary's help and that of the Church I would be good enough to make it to Heaven. I did not know that the Bible tells us that it is

*'not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit' Titus 3:5*

All our good works fall short of Gods standard

*'But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away,' Isaiah 64:6.*

God's standard is perfection; God's standard is Jesus Christ. For us this is humanly impossible, but the good news of the gospel is that what God requires, God has provided. On the cross our sins were put to the account of Jesus, and His perfection was put to our account. His righteousness in exchange for our sins. At the moment we believe this awesome truth God no longer sees our sin, He sees us clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, even the righteousness of God. At that moment we are also saved with a salvation we can never lose.

*After 50 years of serving as a Nun in the Catholic Church I came to this profound realisation, and put my whole faith and trust in the saving work of Christ.*

***For me there is only One Saviour and One Mediator, The Lord Jesus Christ***

I thank God my Father who loved me so much that He sent His only beloved son Jesus to save me. I thank Him my dear Redeemer who even now is interceding for me as my High priest, and who will soon return to take me home to Heaven where I will shine like the sun and praise Him for all eternity.

#### **A PERSONAL APPEAL:**

Dear Reader, if you want to know complete forgiveness you must abandon all other means and Mediators and put your faith and trust in Christ alone. When you do that He will give you a peace and joy that this world does not know, your life will have new meaning and new direction and by the power of the Holy Spirit you will be able to live a Godly life.

***For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***

***For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.***

John ch.3 vs. 16,17

***Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.***

Acts 4:12

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**I had never heard the true gospel**

***The Testimony of***

***Peggy O'Neill***

***Formerly Sister Aidan. RSHM***



Dear Reader, my name is Peggy O'Neill, and this is the story of my conversion to Christ at age 70, after practising as a nun in the Catholic Church for 50 years. I write this in the hope that it will help others come to an understanding of the True Gospel of Salvation.

### MY EARLY HOME LIFE:

I was born in Ballybunion, Co. Kerry in 1921 - The town where the river Shannon meets the sea. My parents, and all our neighbours were staunch practising Catholics, faithful to all the precepts of the Catholic Church. The family rosary was an important daily devotion. The trimmings of the rosary included the Litany of the blessed virgin, where Mary was invoked under a number of wonderful titles - *Mystical Rose, Tower of Ivory, Ark of the Covenant, Gate of Heaven*; to name but a few. In my home, I was surrounded by religion and Catholic culture in the form of statues, pictures of Mary and the "Saints", Holy Water, Rosary beads, Scapulars, Medals & Relics. The Sacred Heart lamp was always lit beside the picture of the family consecration to the sacred heart.



### SCHOOLING:

At school, I was well grounded in Catholic doctrine. I learned about the Mass, the Sacraments, the Ten Commandments, and what was forbidden and commanded by each commandment. To my surprise I found I had only learned about nine commandments. The second one, which forbids us to make statues, was left out!! In my parish church were some beautiful statues, and on Sundays after Mass, I used to light a candle before the statue of St. Teresa of Lisieux, and then I knelt down and prayed to her. Later I went to the local convent school where many teachers were nuns. I grew up with the idea that nuns were very special people before God, and their



St. Teresa Of Lisieux

kind of life was the highest calling for any woman.

### LIFE AS A NUN:

At the age of seventeen, I said goodbye to my father and mother, my two sisters and seven brothers and entered the convent. The first seven years were spent in the south of France, in Beziers a town whose name has made its way into Church history, not too far from Lourdes. The order I entered was dedicated to education. After college training I worked as a schoolteacher in England for thirty-five years. Side-by-side with my teaching, was my religious life. Before and after school, there were long periods given to prayer and religious exercises, and Mass every morning in the convent chapel. During my fifty years as a nun, regardless of the inevitable ups and downs of life, I was very happy. Happy to believe that I was following what I then thought was my God given vocation. The vows of poverty, chastity and obedience I had made were meant to be perpetual and final.



### A LIFE-CHANGING DISCOVERY:

All of this changed in 1989 when I saw my nephew with an interest in the Bible. He also said that he had left the Catholic Church. From early childhood we were told that the catholic church was the one true church outside of which there was no salvation. Why then should my nephew or anyone else leave it? I loved the Catholic Church, and everything about it, and implicitly believed all its teachings, never once doubting or questioning any of them. For me the Catholic religion was the only true religion in the world, but now for the first time I began to examine the faith into which I had been born. I soon found that some things I believed were nowhere in the Bible. Not only were there additions, but also some Catholic doctrines even contradicted the Bible. *Proverbs 30:6* condemns as a potential liar anyone who would add to God's word '*Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar*'. To any who would contradict it *Romans 3:4* says Let God be true and every man a liar. Could this include the Pope?

As time went on I realised that the Catholic Church had a false gospel - one that is the exact opposite of the gospel revealed in the Bible. The gospel is the basic, most important doctrine in the Bible, as in it, God makes known His plan of salvation. Today there are thousands of false religions in the world and every religion including Catholicism has devised a different gospel. A church stands or falls by the Gospel it preaches, and at the age of 70 I had no option but to leave the church, which for so long I had greatly trusted.

### GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION:

God's plan of salvation was to send a Saviour, Jesus Christ, and because of Him, He could offer salvation as a free gift to the whole world. The Roman Catholic plan of salvation is that God sent a Saviour, but the salvation he brought was not complete, nor is it offered as a gift to us. Added to the work of Jesus must be what we do to save ourselves. The difference between the true gospel and the gospel of Rome is shown by comparing scripture with the written decrees of the council of Trent

which was held by the Catholic Church over five hundred years ago, and has not changed to this day (See insert). From this we can see that the Catholic Church teaches that we have to work for salvation, and in contrast, God's word teaches that we do not work for salvation, but that Heaven will be given to all who believe that Jesus has done all the work on their behalf. As a Catholic I knew that Jesus was God who came on earth both as God and man to save us. I knew many facts about Jesus from reading the four gospels, and thirteen of the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary gave a daily reminder of the major events in His life. I knew Jesus as a person,

#### Council of Trent

"to those who work well unto the end and trust in God, eternal life is to be offered, both as grace mercifully promised by God himself through Jesus Christ and as a reward to be faithfully given to their good works and merits"

#### God's Word

But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness (Romans 4:5)