

INTERVIEWS AND BRIGHT LIGHTS



The last couple of days have seen myself and Fr Nigel present on various topics; in particular Fr Nigel in his matter of fact way describes the damage done on his home atoll of Ontong Java. He shows a picture of him, shown here, wading through the ocean above where the village used to be, and trying to find his grandmother's grave under the water and sand. It brings home powerfully the effect of climate change on an audience that whilst sympathetic, has probably not fully understood. This is the power of being present in person.

There have also been a few interviews, mainly with documentary makers rather than journalists. There is something disorienting about have a bright light shoved in your face and talking to a person hidden in the darkness just behind the lights. But telling the story needs to be done, and also hearing from others, including activists and scientists, who help complete your own story. In the story telling, hope emerges, as the stories link together and become a powerful narrative in which change is possible. Sadly, of course, it is probably too late for Ontong Java. The first climate change refugees are already coming out of the Pacific, and demand not just our sympathy, but also justice. For the rest of us, there is the hope of avoiding the worst of what might come.

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