

St. Mary of the Angels Geelong

Monday 3rd November 2025
Saturday 8th November 2025



Daily Reflections

<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html>

MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2025

ST MARTIN DE PORRES

31st Week in Ordinary Time

*Romans 11: 29-36, Psalm 68: 30-31, 33-34, 36-37. R. v. 14,
Luke 14: 12-14.*

Reflection: Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Whilst most of the recorded moments of the three-year Gospel ministry of Jesus tell of his miracles and teaching, these written encounters account for perhaps only a couple of 40-hours work weeks. What was Jesus doing for the rest of the time? The hint is often given in the scriptural accounts: the context for most of the ministry of Jesus is food and drink, eating with the Twelve, with friends and with followers as well as with anyone who was around and hungry. In contrast with the widespread fast-food trend, the slow-food movement that has gained ground in recent years re-captures our ancestors' daily routine of dining. Such meals take time and are unhurried with home-grown produce processed by on-site hosts. My most memorable meals have been occasions of relationship-building in an environment of re-connection and reconciliation with family, friends and even with foe. Sometimes all it takes to heal is a meal.



TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2025

ST CHARLES BORROMEO

31st Week in Ordinary Time

Romans 12: 5-16, Psalm 130, Luke 14: 15-24.

Reflection: In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

Every now and then the daily liturgy scriptures follow in a very helpful sequence as if the writers are aware that we might easily miss an important point. Yesterday's direction to open our hospitality is taken a step further today with an acknowledgement that an invitation generously given is not always accepted and is sometime even refused. No problem says Jesus. Don't waste time berating others for their refusals. Instead accept the rebuff as a wake-up call, an encouragement to look elsewhere for those we may not have thought to invite. Too often we get caught in a social cycle of routine invitations. You might hear in this reflection an invitation to invite a street-stranger for a café-cuppa, or to approach someone you don't know after Mass, to initiate conversation with them, and invite them to join you and some of your friends for some slow food with good company.



WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2025

31st Week in Ordinary Time

Romans 13: 8-10, Psalm 111: 1-2, 4-5, 9. R. v. 5, Luke 14: 25-33.

Reflection: Happy the merciful who give to those in need.

Too often we reduce Catholic faith to an adherence to the rituals and regulations of the Church. While religious tradition expresses our communion, a reduction of the richness of Catholic life can see our faith reduced to unattractive legalism and moralism. In the same ways we might reduce the beauty and depth of love to a superficial politeness in every difficult situation. While respect for others is important, we are created for much more: for a love that has no limits. The prayers and practices of Catholic life are essential, and when understood rightly we appreciate that the law is the sign that leads us to abundant living in relationship with Jesus Christ. This is where healthy religious practice becomes radical (literally a getting-back-to-the-root) discipleship in the new eternal family of Jesus Christ.



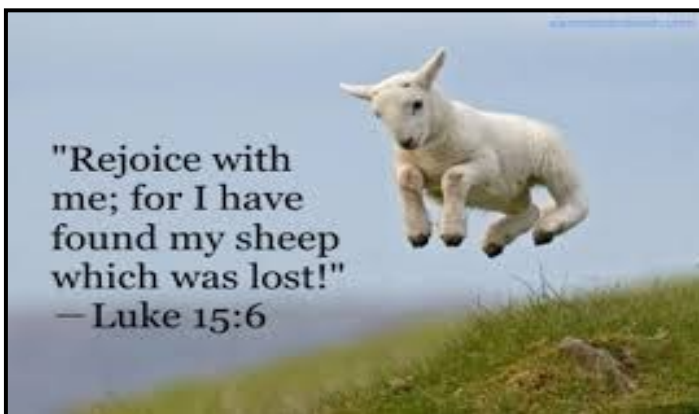
THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2025

31st Week in Ordinary Time

Romans 14: 7-12, Psalm 26: 1, 4, 13-14. R. v 13, Luke 15:1-10.

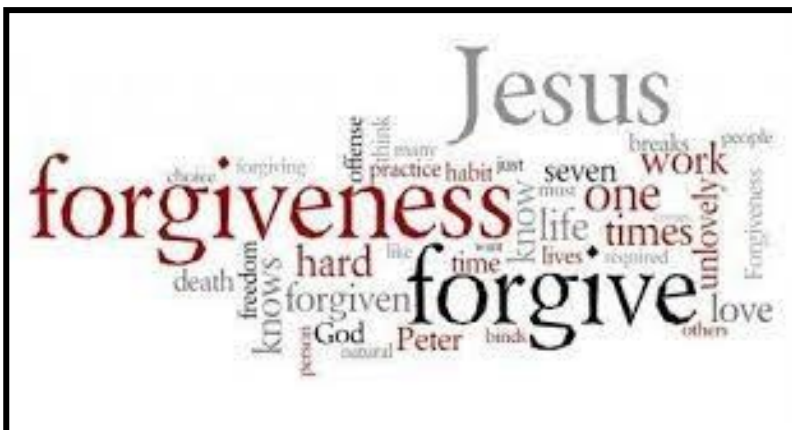
Reflection: I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

One of the greatest concerns in twenty-first century human life is stress. Jesus offers us the solution. But first let's suggest that stress is almost always caused by a loss of perspective. When I feel as though everything depends on me, I will feel burdened. A widely held thought is that a human being is to him/herself and that each of us is our own creation. This misunderstanding grows when we think that it is our personal successes and failures that define us, giving our lives coherence or meaninglessness. Today we are reminded that we do not belong to ourselves. We are not our own creation. Alive or dead we belong to the Lord. The ministry of Jesus is testimony to this reality as we see the powerful and the successful often resisting relationship with Jesus. The pattern in the Gospels and through Christian history is that Jesus sees every human person as his sister and brother, and is most attracted to the weakest and most vulnerable.



Romans 15: 14-21, Psalm 97: 1-4, R. cf. v. 12. Luke 16: 1-8.

The ministry of Jesus, while constantly comforting those who are afflicted, also afflicts those who are comfortable. When Jesus is speaking with the poor and vulnerable who know their need for salvation, his presence is rich with gentle mercy. The rich man's steward suddenly finds himself about to lose his job. Surprisingly Jesus praises his survival instinct. When he receives notice that he is to be dismissed, and while still employed, the steward uses the power of his position to shrewdly ensure that he and his family will survive. No doubt Jesus caused outrage among employers when he told this story, but his concern was for those who were too often the helpless victims of powerful and unscrupulous employers. Note that the steward was still employed and using the discretion that was legitimately his. He wasn't being corrupt but shrewd, and no doubt the employer was happy to get at least a percentage of what he was owed from people who might otherwise have returned him nothing.



SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2025

31st Week in Ordinary time

Romans 16: 3-9, 16, 22-27. Psalm 144: 2-5, 10-11. R. v. 1.

Luke 16: 9-15.

Reflection: I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

Life often seems to be a juggling act between so many things which are important and necessary. But Jesus never encourages a balance. Instead, he stresses the impossibility of serving both God and the world. Faith is not just a part of human life, but the only way to live abundantly all day every day. Let's not think about this too much but try to accept the clear teaching of Jesus as the fact of life. Decide right now to live with and for Jesus alone in every decision, every encounter, every waking and sleeping moment. If the idea of living this way for the rest of your life is a bit daunting, just start with a week, or even twenty-four hours. Throughout your trial period ask yourself: Am I more happy? If you are less happy then you have lost nothing. If you consider that you are happier then you have discovered anew the beauty and joy of the heart of Catholic faith.



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

