

St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong



Daily Reflections

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

MONDAY 9 MAY 2022—JENNIFER CHRIST

Monday of the 4th Week of Easter

Acts 11:1-8 Psalms 42:2-3, 43:3-4 John 10:1-10

Abundance

I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly

John 10:10

How would you define abundance of life? Certainly, Jesus meant more than money in the bank and a plethora of “stuff”. What is true abundance? People to love and care for and those who do the same for you? Is it meaningful work and service in the world? We must include beauty, creativity and nature! Abundance is founded in a strong faith that keeps you steady through the hard patches and tragic times. It is a sense of being loved, treasured and forgiven by a merciful God—even when you miss the mark.

Abundance of life is both sunshine and shadow and a God who never leaves you orphaned through it all. Jesus came to invite us to this life, and he is our template for how we live it. In the Eucharist, he is our food for the journey, all we need and more!

Lord, I open myself to the abundance of this day!



TUESDAY 10 MAY 2022—MELANIE RIGNEY

Tuesday of the 4th Week of Easter

Acts 11:19-26 Psalm 87:1-7 John 10:22-30

Hearing and Listening

My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me. John 10:27

Hearing Jesus' voice is not that difficult. In fact, sometimes we wish we couldn't hear it! You know, those times when we'd prefer to give someone a piece of our minds or beg off taking a fellow parishioner to a doctor's appointment or buy that new toy that's not in the budget. It seems, in short, Jesus wants us to be perfect like him, and people just aren't built for that. Or maybe...we are built for that. For when we listen to the Good Shepherd's gentle voice and obey, we begin to understand that following isn't so very difficult. We treat that difficult person as Jesus would, and friendship blooms where there might have been envy. We provide that ride, and we are blessed to learn about someone else's faith journey. We say no to the new toy and yes to the opportunity to keep alive a food pantry or homeless shelter or a religious community. When we open our ears and follow, we also open our hearts and souls and move closer to perfection.

Lord, help this sheep listen to, not merely hear, your voice.



WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2022—GREG ERLANDSON

Wednesday of the 4th Week of Easter

Acts 12:24-----13:5a Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 John 12:44-50

Your Indispensable Witness

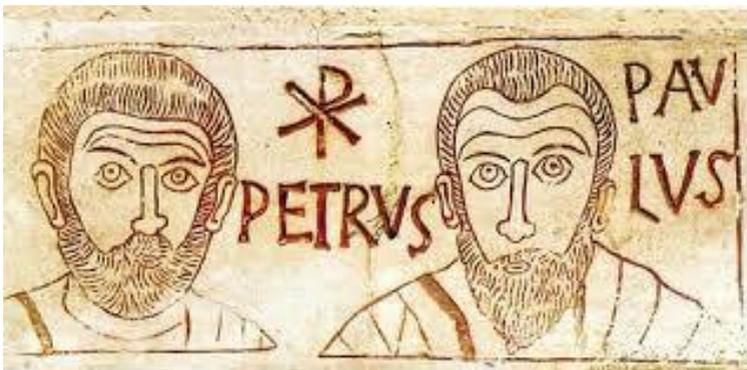
The word of God continued to spread and grow. Acts 12:24

We all love being a part of something new and vibrant. We love discovering the newest social media tool before our parents or our siblings do.

What is so exciting about Acts of the Apostles is the sense of being in on the ground floor of something really big: a vibrant new Church pulsating with life. In the first reading, where the early teachers and saints are gathering in Jerusalem, one can feel their excitement as Christianity spread throughout the empire.

Two thousand years later, our challenge is to recover this sense of excitement. Our mandate remains to spread the truly Good News our world hungers for. There are still mission territories awaiting the Gospel, but even in our own country, people are lost and without purpose. They need to see God's message as alive and vibrant today. This is where our witness remains as indispensable as Paul once was.

O Holy Spirit, help me bear witness in my words and deeds to the saving power of God's Word.



THURSDAY 12 MAY 2022—SR JOYCE RUPP, OSM

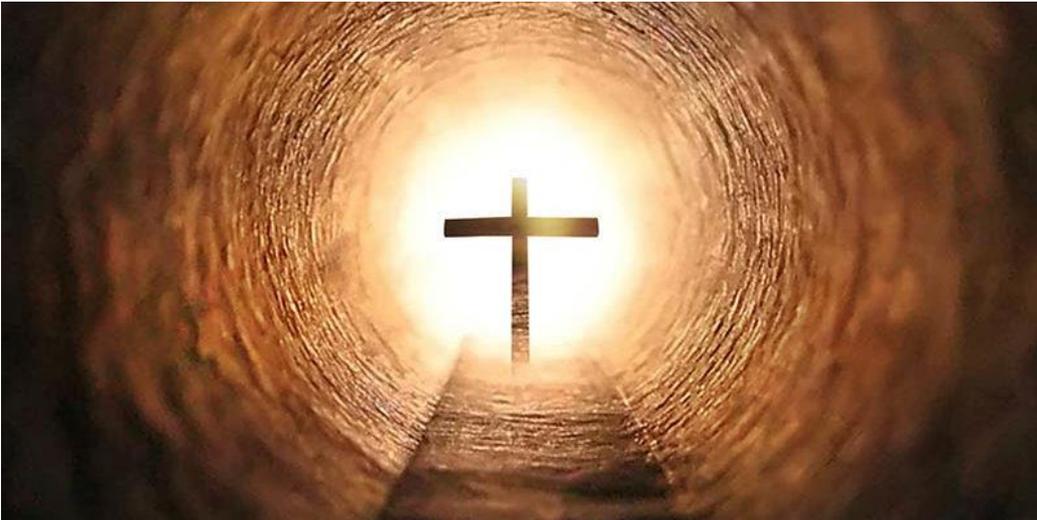
Thursday of the 4th Week of Easter

Acts 13:13-25 Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27 John 13:16-20

Put to the Test

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. John 13:20

Jesus spoke these words about “receiving” after he had washed the feet of his disciples and urged them to follow his example in their discipleship. To receive another as fully as Jesus did is no easy task. Among the numerous definitions that Webster’s dictionary gives to the word “receive” are these: “To accept, to let enter, to give admittance to.” When I consider these dimensions of receiving another person as I would receive Jesus, I realise the challenge of what I am being asked to do. Quite frankly, some of the most difficult “receiving” is in the realm of those I know well, rather than strangers or persons who are passing acquaintances. The longer I know someone, and they know me, the more quickly our quirks and imperfections reveal themselves. Ah, then, the real action of “receiving” stands up and puts me to the test.



FRIDAY 13 MAY 2022— PAT GOHN

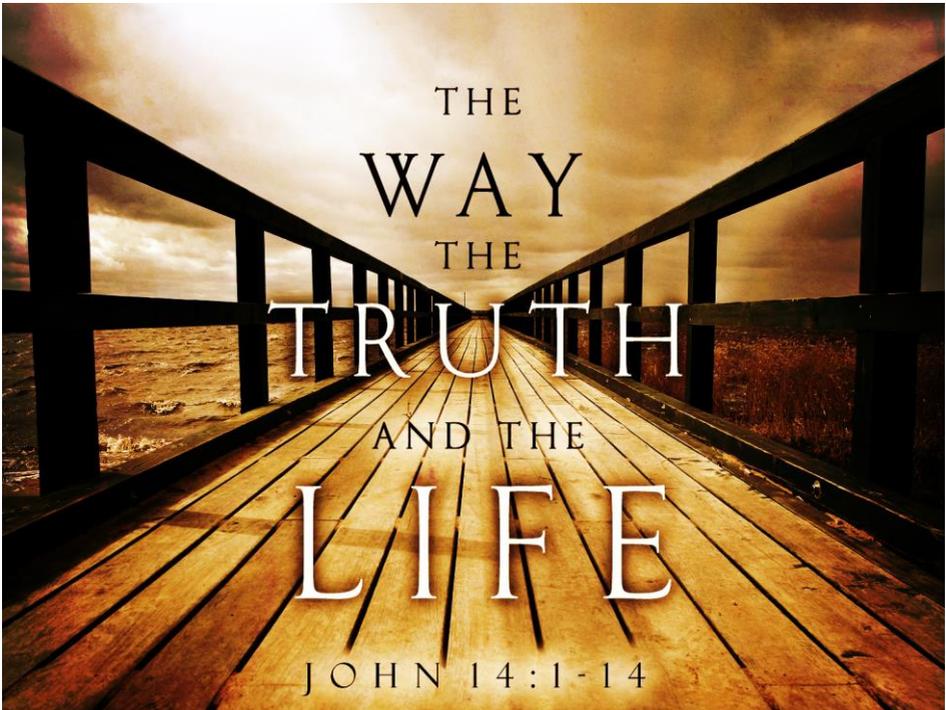
Friday of the 4th Week of Easter

Acts 13:26-33 Psalm 2:6-11 John 14:1-6

Knowing the Way

Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life.” John 14:5-6

The longest journey I ever took was an 11,000-mile cross-country trip, planned for weeks using multiple maps and advice from an auto club. Today, such a trip could be done in minutes with apps on my smartphone. Knowing the way and trusting my guides were keys to a successful trip. So I can relate to Thomas’ concern about where to go after Jesus leaves. The apostles had no maps in advance or formal plans for development of the kingdom. Yet Jesus offers a navigational clue: He was to be their way, truth and life. The rest would follow. (It’s no surprise that early Christians were known as followers of “The Way”. See Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22.)



SATURDAY 14 MAY 2022—AMY WELBORN

Saint Matthias

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Psalm 113:1-8 John 15:9-17

The Friend

I have called you friends... John 15:15

It happens every single time. I enter the huge Swedish home goods store whose name begins with “I”, full of energy, ready for inspiration, sure that my life is about to be transformed by fashionable yet reasonably priced modern lines and colourways.

But then, thirty minutes in, I’m exhausted, over stimulated and overwhelmed. Most of all, I feel trapped. I just want to get out of there. Be free.

Maybe you feel like that sometimes: after being online for too long or suffering through a different type of shopping or purported entertainment experience—initially enticing, but in the end, wearisome, draining and dehumanizing.

What a relief then, to turn from these forces and hear the kind voice of Jesus, who comes to me, not to manipulate or control, but as, in his own words, a friend. The friend who knows me the best, loves me and invites me to find something real in that friendship freedom.



Someone has to believe in order for
you to belong



But a little bit of faith goes a long
way!