

St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong



Daily Reflections

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

MONDAY 1 AUGUST, 2022—KRISTIN ARMSTRONG

St Alphonsus Liguori

Jeremiah 28:1-17 Psalm 119:29, 43, 79-80, 95, 102 Matthew 14:13-21

Seek Him First

They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over—twelve wicker baskets full. Matthew 14:20

I have had days as a woman, a mother, a runner and as a counsellor when the work of the day left me completely drained and depleted. When I look back on those days, I can see now that I was trying to operate on my own power. Just like a device can either have a battery pack or be plugged into the wall, when we run on our own battery power, we inevitably wear out. When I start my day in meditation, prayer and devotion, is how I plug into the source, how I connect with God. From this sure foundation, I can be who I need to be and do what needs to be done and still have something left over at the end of the day for myself and the people I love.

This kind of abundance God offers when we seek him first. I ask God to multiply my “loaves and fishes” (verse 17-19), and he makes more of me than I am.



TUESDAY 2 AUGUST, 2022—SR MELANNIE SVOBODA, S.N.D.

Tuesday of the 18th Week in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22 Psalm 102:16-21, 29, 22-23 Matthew 14:22-36

Words, Words, Words

Write all the words I have spoken to you in a book. Jeremiah 30:2

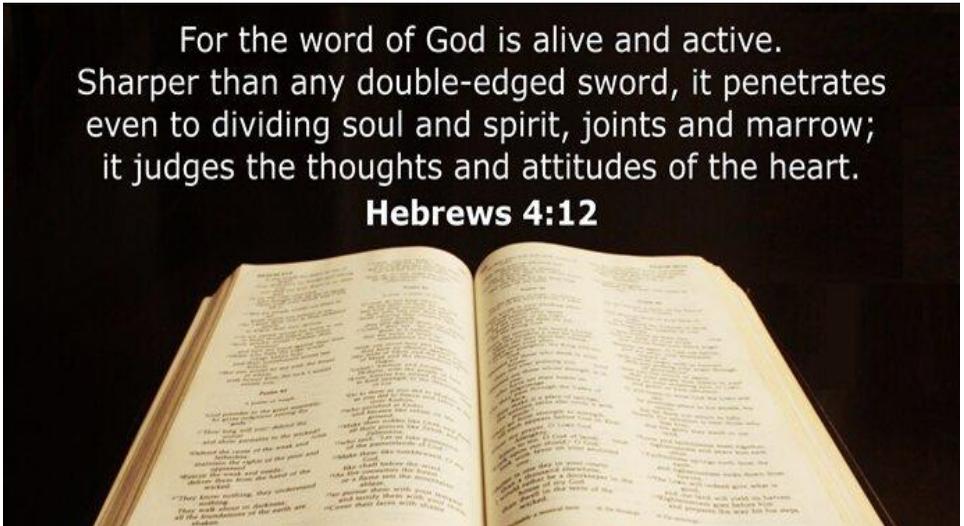
As a writer, I love words. I am fascinated by their power, mystery, beauty, rhythm and sound. The respect for words permeates our Christian faith. In Genesis, God uses simple words to create the universe. And what is the Bible but a collection of God's words to us, assuring us of God's tender care and challenging us to live lives of faithful love?

Jesus comes into our world and proves to be a wordsmith par excellence. He crafts enduring images and stories to convey his message of faith, forgiveness and service. Jesus' words transform the hearts of individuals, draw massive crowds and, sadly, incite his enemies to put him to death—to silence him. But, on Easter Sunday, Jesus has the last word. Appearing to his stunned apostles, he blesses them with a single word: Peace.

Today, let us be mindful of the words we hear, see, speak and write. May all our words be rooted in our discipleship with Jesus, the Word of God.

For the word of God is alive and active.
Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates
even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow;
it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12



WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST, 2022—KATHLEEN SWARTZ MCQUAIG

Saint Dominic

Jeremiah 31:1-7 Psalm Jeremiah 31:10-13 Matthew 15:21-28

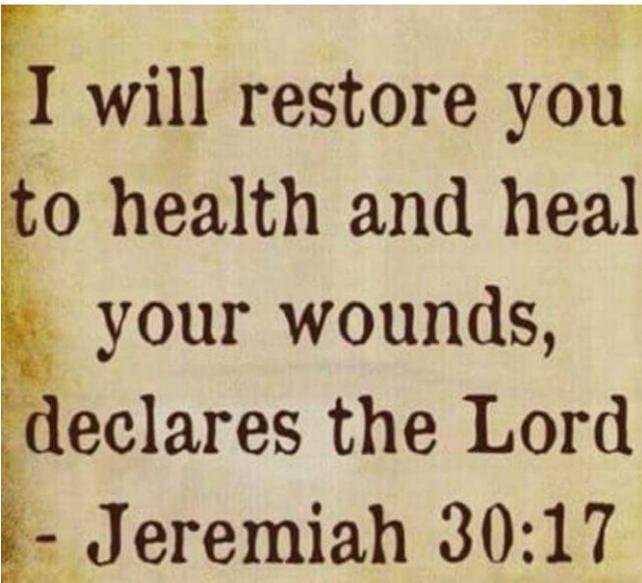
Fixer-Upper

Again I will restore you, and you shall be rebuilt... Jeremiah 31:4

A friend recently found a passion for flipping furniture. Battered pieces, once used or abused, find new life and beauty in her caring re-creation—their transformations truly amazing. In both her job as a doctor of physical therapy and in her new furniture flipping hobby, my friend rehabs both people and things. She mirrors our Lord in that passion for rehabilitation. Today's Scripture readings chronicle God's restoration of a nation and, more importantly, his shepherding and healing of people. At an even greater level than my friend, he understands exactly how to rehab our hearts to reveal the beauty of deep healing and new life—and he has the vision to see it through.

What part of your life most needs to be restored? Why not talk about it with our Master Renovator, who is passionate about his vision for you.

Thank you, Lord, for your vision and healing in my life.



I will restore you
to health and heal
your wounds,
declares the Lord
- Jeremiah 30:17

THURSDAY 4 AUGUST, 2022—MSGR. STEPHEN J. ROSSETTI

Saint John Vianney

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:12-15, 18-19 Matthew 16:13-23

Holiness in the Ordinary

All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord...

Jeremiah 31:34

The Devil reportedly told St John Vianney, “If there were three such priests as you, my kingdom would be ruined.” It is estimated that 80,000 came yearly to see the saintly priest at Ars.

However, he seemingly did nothing extraordinary. He was a simple parish priest. He celebrated Mass, heard confessions, preached and ministered to the people. In fact, he wasn’t one of the great intellectual lights in the seminary, barely squeaking through to ordination.

It would be easy for us to despair of our being holy. We go about our daily duties, and it can seem a bit too mundane for real sanctity. St John Vianney shows us that God can raise up to holiness those who are busy about the ordinary tasks of life, but who do so with deep faith. May we have the same faith that inspired this great saint, and may we become holy.

It is not the being seen of men that is wrong, but doing these things for the purpose of being seen of men. The problem with the hypocrite is his motivation. He does not want to be holy; he only wants to seem to be holy. He is more concerned with his reputation for righteousness than about actually becoming righteous. The approbation of men matters more to him than the approval of God.

Saint Augustine

FRIDAY 5 AUGUST, 2022—MARIA RUIZ SCARPERLANDA

Friday of the 18th Week in Ordinary Time

Nahum 2:1, 3; 3:1-, 6-7 Psalm Deuteronomy 32:35-36, 41 Matthew 16:24-28

Do It All for Love

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. Matthew 16:24

Sometimes the “cross” I am asked to carry is life changing—the death of a loved one, a betrayal, loss of a job, a debilitating illness. These pivotal life moments insist on complete surrender to God’s Providence.

But my response to the many small crosses I encounter every day are just as important to my spiritual journey. The unexpected issues that up-end your plans completely. Although not necessarily “bad” things, these real-life moments pose genuine challenges. How I respond develops habits that can deepen my growth in faith. St Therese of Lisieux explained it this way: “Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it for love.”

What is my cross today—and how will I carry it?



I have always believed that God never gives a cross to bear larger than we can carry. No matter what, he wants us to be happy, not sad. birds sing after a storm. Why shouldn't we?

— Rose Kennedy —

SATURDAY 6 AUGUST, 2022—DEBORAH A. MEISTER

The Transfiguration of the Lord

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 9 2 Peter 1:16-19 Luke 9:28b-36

The Transfiguration

“This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven...2 Peter 1:17-18

Jesus brought the disciples to the mountain to pray with him. Though they had probably prayed with Jesus many times, this time is strikingly different because they heard God’s voice speaking to them. Thankfully, we don’t have to climb a mountain to hear God call us. When we pray—throughout the day—we can listen with our hearts wide open to hear God’s voice. Listening requires a willingness to pause our litany of prayer intentions and ignore our worries and distractions, of which the world provides in abundance. Jesus heard God’s voice in his heart continually calling him to care for the poor, heal the sick and forgive his enemies.

Help us to quiet our minds and hearts, Jesus, that we may hear the voice of God.



Special prayers and blessings for our parish children who are receiving Eucharist for the first time during the month of August.

Our love and prayers are with you. You are so very welcome!

May you be nourished for a life of discipleship and be graced with good companions on the journey.

