

St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong Daily Reflections



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

MONDAY 18 OCTOBER 2021—GREG ERLANDSON

St Luke

2 Timothy 4:10-17b Psalm 145:10-13, 17-18 Luke 10:1-9

Witnessing With Love

Your friends make known, O Lord, the glorious splendour of your Kingdom.

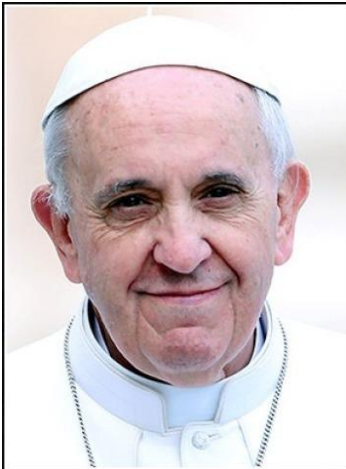
Psalm 145:12

We are at the age now where our adult children must make their own decisions about following the Lord and being faithful to the beliefs of the Church in which they were raised. As parents, it is hard for us sometimes when they appear to reject or question the faith we love.

Sometimes we try to talk about the importance of our faith, or as the psalmist says, “discourse of the glory of your Kingdom” (verse 11). But we also know that nagging is usually ineffective, so we attempt to “make known the glorious splendour of your Kingdom” through example and witness. We pray before meals, we share spiritual reflections on holidays, we extend invitations to go to Mass. And yes, we talk about our faith when we can.

God doesn’t give up on them and neither do we. Our goal is to be witnesses and examples, even when we don’t know the outcome.

Holy Spirit let our witness be honest, humble and pure.



Christian witness is concrete: words
without actions are empty.

— *Pope Francis* —

AZ QUOTES

TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER, 2021—FR JAMES MCKARNS

Tuesday of the 28th Week in Ordinary Time

Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21 Psalm 40:7-10, 17 Luke 12:35-38

To Truly Serve

Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.

Luke12:37

I recently read the book *Five Presidents* by Clint Hill, a well-known Secret Service agent. The agents directly protect the president, but they also are on call to serve the president in numerous ways. As the name implies, they are servants. The qualities of being a good servant is the topic of today's Gospel.

Jesus speaks to all of us, his Christian followers, that we are called to be servants—vigilant servants. The title of being a servant is never to be considered as a demeaning position because we have the exalted privilege of serving Jesus, who is also our Lord, Rabbi, teacher and Master.

A servant is supposed to be available to the master, even though we are not briefed in advance about the master's plans. We may have our own agendas but sometimes they must be set aside in order to follow a bigger plan with our service motto: Thy will be done.

Speak, Lord; your servant is listening.



WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2021—ELIZABETH DUFFY

Wednesday of the 28th Week in Ordinary Time

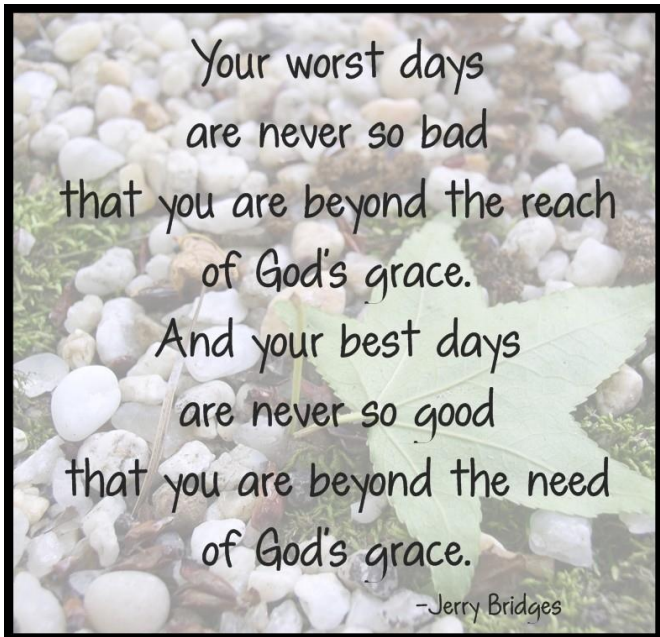
Romans 6:12-18 Psalm 124:1-8 Luke 12:39-48

Be Prepared

You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come. Luke 12:40

This passage in Scripture has provoked anxiety in me at various times in my life. I have read it to mean that I must be perfect as quickly as possible and remain that way indefinitely. Yet St. Paul's epistle to the Romans says, we now live "not under the law but under grace" (6:14). Grace allows us to notice our anxiety without giving it over to despair or becoming a slave to it. As we sit in faithful presence, awaiting the coming of the Son of Man, we can ask ourselves if we even know what Jesus means when he says "be prepared". Is that a source of anxiety? Perhaps I know what's being asked of me, but I feel ill equipped to do it.

What do I need today to be prepared to meet God?



THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021—KATHLEEN SWARTZ MCQUAIG

Thursday of the 28th Week in Ordinary Time

Romans 6:19-23 Psalm 1:1-4, 6 Luke 12:49-53

Changing Course

But what profit did you get then from the things of which you are now ashamed? Romans 6:21

I spotted my former college roommate at Mass, delighted to discover my friend had moved into the area. We hugged and introduced our families; her gregarious story telling captivated my children. Hearty laughs followed. Yet I hadn't anticipated that seeing my roommate would also trigger a flood of those not so proud memories. I felt momentarily ashamed—perhaps because I'd now learned to filter life through faith and through my children's ears. Still, through Sacrament of Penance, God had long since taken that shame and reconciled me to himself.

Years before that day, our children had understood that we weren't proud of certain aspects of those college years. We told them: We can't change where we've been, but we can change where we're going.

Thank you, Lord, that no matter where we've been, you invite us to change course for the good.



FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER 2021—MIGUEL DULICK

Friday of the 28th Week in Ordinary Time

Romans 7:18-25a Psalm 119:66, 68, 76-77, 93-94 Luke 12:54-59

Sign Readers

Why do you not know how to interpret the present time? Luke 12:56

I guess it's always "the present time", so Jesus might be as frustrated with us as he was with the crowds of his own day. If the meaning is as obvious as "the earth and the sky" we would be able to "judge...what is right", as Jesus urges (verse 6-7). Yet with the incoming news cycles on the Internet and social media, the signs may overwhelm us like a flood or a landslide. Fighting pour way to the surface amid it all, we may gasp for air.

But let us remember that elsewhere Jesus says our love for each other will be the sign of our Christian faith, so let's start there. In fact, maybe that's all we need—love. Forgiving, reconciling, serving—that should be enough for now—just do it, all the time!



SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER 2021—PAT GOHN

Saturday of the 28th Week in Ordinary Time

Romans 8:1-11 Psalm 24:1-6 Luke 13:1-9

The Gardener's Advice

Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.

Luke 13:8-9

I am no gardener, nor is it work I enjoy. Yet four flowering trees on my property demand pruning and fertilizing—tasks I would prefer to ignore as it takes energy I'd rather give to other pursuits. But it is vital for the trees. In this parable about a fig tree, my impatience with a non-fruitful tree would rival the orchard owner's—"cut it down" (verse 7). But the gardener sees more: As long as there is life in it, the tree might be saved. It will take attention and effort.

The parallels to both the just judgement and mercy of God cut to the heart. One day, we will be judged by the fruits of our lives. Yet Jesus, the patient gardener, lovingly offers mercy that none may perish but be saved. But first, we must cultivate our lives with ongoing repentance and bear the good fruit the gardener intends.

Cultivate my life, Lord, however you see fit.



Happiness is a state of awareness, which comes from tranquility, service, love, grace, and forgiveness.

