

# St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong



## Daily Reflections

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

**MONDAY 8 AUGUST, 2022—PAT GOHN**

*Saint Dominic*

*Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28c Psalm 148:1-2, 11-14 Matthew 17:22-27*

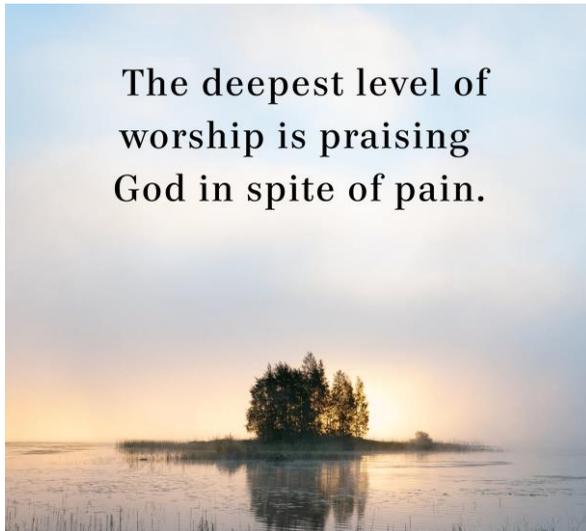
## **The Gift of Praise**

*Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.* Psalm 148:13

Last fall, during months of painful rehab following my knee-joint replacement, I routinely ran into the deacon at our church. He also happened to be a physical therapist and knew my healing was taking longer than expected. I was discouraged! Yet he would ask about my progress and, knowing his profession, I always told him my knee-bend measurements. One Sunday, when I told him “111 degrees,” he replied with two observations: ‘That’s a milestone! I wonder what Psalm 111 might say?’ I wondered too and looked it up. The psalm’s first line stayed with me all week: Praise the Lord! I will praise the Lord with all my heart,” That week, I drove to my physical therapy praising God out loud. I began to praise God every day for the exercises, my therapist, my new knee and my renewed prayer praising God even amid my distress. For every degree gained, I learned a new psalm. At measuring 112 degrees, I learned Psalm 112; for 113, Psalm 113 and so on.

*Lord, may discouragement never stop me from praising you.*

The deepest level of  
worship is praising  
God in spite of pain.



**TUESDAY 9 AUGUST, 2022—PATRICIA LIVINGSTON**

*St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross*

*Ezekiel 2:8-3:4 Psalm 119:14, 24, 72 103, 111, 131 Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14*

## **Feeling Lost?**

***If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? ...In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost. Matthew 18:12, 14***

This parable has always brought to mind my memories of frantic searches for things I had lost. Lately it seems to remind me of times that I have felt lost. Driving someplace I had not been able to visit for a long time, I panicked when my familiar route had disappeared with new road construction. I have also felt lost when overwhelmed by new responsibilities, feeling I was without the skills to undertake them adequately. I get repeatedly lost using technology, on my computer or smartphone-sometimes with no idea how to find my way to what needs to be done.

*Good Shepherd, when we are feeling lost, like a “little one, “help us realise we are always found and loved by you.*



**WEDNESDAY 10 AUGUST, 2022—GREG ERLANDSON**

*St Lawrence*

*2 Corinthians 9:6-10 Psalm 112:1-2, 5-9 John 12.24-26*

## **Bless Those in Need**

*Blessed the man who is gracious and lends to those in need.* Psalm 112:5

(Responsorial)

Every time I cross paths with a panhandler or a person who may be homeless, I am conflicted about my response. Do I follow the advice of some experts to give to homeless shelters instead? Or do I think of Mother Teresa's dictum that explains that this is Jesus in one of his more distressing disguises?

Whatever I choose, I do know that Scripture is quite clear about our responsibilities for the poor. Psalm 112 reminds us that our faith and religious tradition demand that we care for those in need. The just man 'lavishly...gives to the poor, his generosity shall endure forever' (verse 9). We may give to homeless shelters, help in a food pantry or hand a dollar to a beggar; however, our hearts are moved by the needs on our streets. What we cannot do is ignore the need or turn our back on the needy.

*Jesus, let me see your face in the poor and suffering in our midst, and let my heart be touched.*



**THURSDAY 11 AUGUST, 2022—SR. CHRIS KOELLHOFFER, IHM**  
*Ezekiel 12:1-12 Psalm 78:56-59, 61-62 Matthew 18:21-19:1*

## **Beyond Counting**

*Peter approached Jesus and asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.”*

Matthew 18:21-22

By human standards, Peter’s estimation of the number of times forgiveness is expected is pretty generous. After all, seven times could make for quite a long list of offenses to be endured. By the seventh time a person picks up the phone to call and ask us for forgiveness, many of us might be more than slightly annoyed.

But Jesus’ reply makes Peter’s calculations seem downright petty. Seventy-seven times! Where did Jesus get a number like that, and just what was he thinking? That God can’t count when it comes to mercy and reconciliation. That tallying, scorekeeping and reckoning aren’t in God’s wheelhouse. That the Kingdom of heaven calls for forgiveness that’s limitless, and to do that, we need to rely on the grace of the Holy One.



**FRIDAY 12 AUGUST, 2022—STEVE GIVENS**

*ST Jane Frances de Chantal*

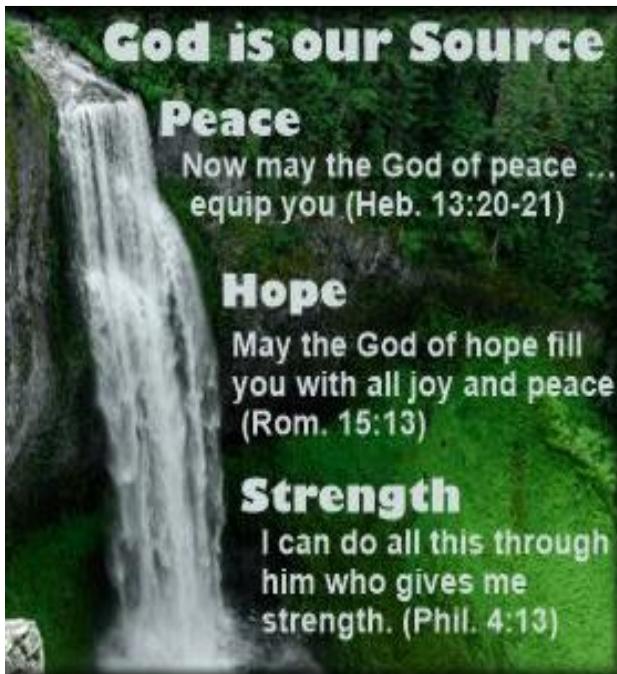
## **God as Nurturing Parent**

*God indeed is my saviour; I am confident and unafraid.* Isaiah 12:2

When our children were young, we made sure they had the necessities of life. We gave them clothing and shelter, food, gentle discipline, formation in their faith and access to education. We gave them a space to grow where they would feel safe and supported. Because of all that, they grew to become adults able to live their lives with confidence and courage.

How much more able, then, is God to give us everything we need to live as mature people of faith? Family and friends may eventually fail us. They may be so busy with their own lives that they have trouble meeting their own needs, much less ours. But God-Creator, Saviour and our Hope in times of despair-is always with us, a constant in a swirling world of change, our source of confidence and courage when we need it most.

*Lord, may your love be the source of all I need.*



**SATURDAY 13 AUGUST, 2022—AMY WELBORN**

*Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32 Psalm 51:12-15, 18-19 Matthew 19:13-15*

## **Listening for the Voice of Love**

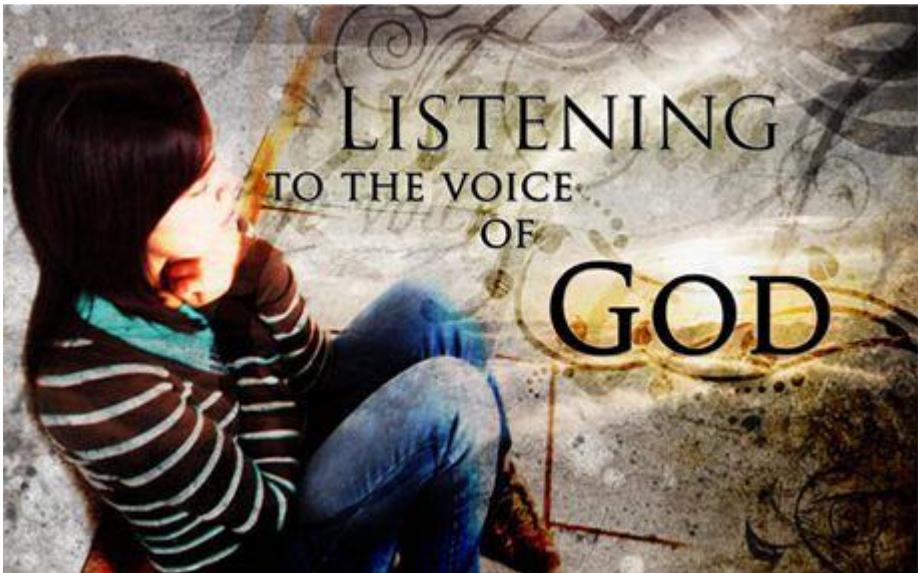
*Why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, says the Lord God. Return and Live!*

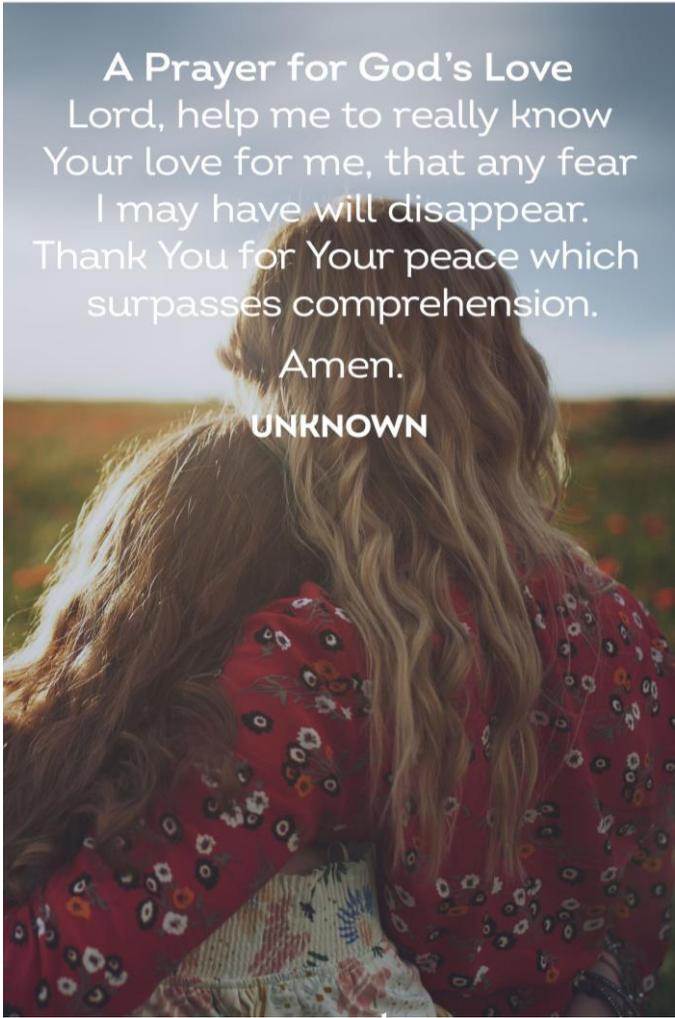
Ezekiel 18:32

The impact of trauma runs deep. It can extend through generations. And because it is what it is, trauma can shape our sense of reality, including our faith. Even short of deep trauma, our spiritual understanding has often been formed by our childhood experiences. Sometimes, we realise with a start in adulthood, that the judgement voice in our heads we assumed belonged to God...doesn't. What a huge step it is, then, to breathe deeply and allow the real voice of the One who created us, not accidentally, but out of love-to resound. To hear the assurance that, no, this Father isn't waiting for us to fail or stumble, but is watching for our return, so that, indeed, we can live.

*Lord, I trust in your love for me*

*Source*





**A Prayer for God's Love**  
Lord, help me to really know  
Your love for me, that any fear  
I may have will disappear.  
Thank You for Your peace which  
surpasses comprehension.

Amen.

**UNKNOWN**