

St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong

Monday 28th April 2025

Saturday 3rd May 2025



Daily Reflections

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

MONDAY 28TH APRIL 2025

2nd week of Easter

St Peter Chanel

Acts 4:23-31, Psalm 2: 1-9, R cf. v. 13, John 3: 1-8

Reflections: Happy are all who put their trust in the Lord

The weeks after Easter lead us through John's story of Jesus, beginning with the night encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus. Nicodemus is happy to accept that Jesus is a teacher. More than this knowledge is required. There can be no sight of the kingdom of God unless one is born again from above. Jesus explains what this means after Nicodemus misunderstands Jesus' words as being born 'a second time. To be born again means to go through the process of baptism, and to be born from above means to be filled with the Holy Spirit ('through water and the Spirit'). We do not know where the 'wind' (*pneuma*) comes from or goes to, but we are caught in it. A life lived in the Spirit (*pneuma*) has its origins and final goal in the mystery of God. 'That is how it is with those who are born of the Spirit (*pneuma*).



TUESDAY 29TH APRIL 2025

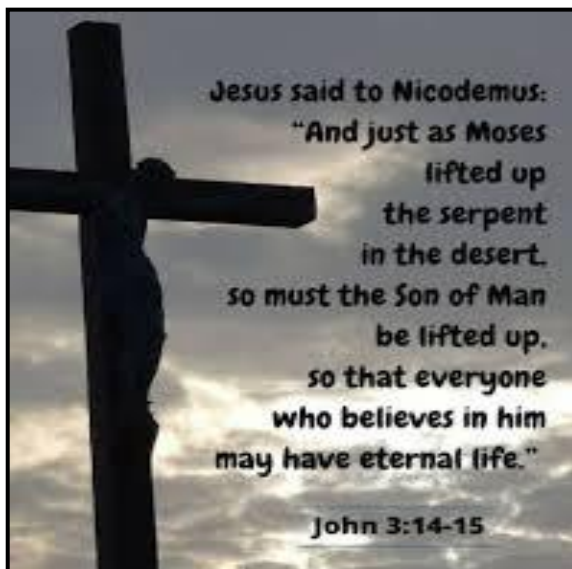
2nd Week of Easter

St Catherine of Sienna

Acts 4: 32-37, Psalm 92: 1-2, 5, R. v. 1, John 3: 7-15.

Reflection. Through Him all things are possible.

Nicodemus is out of his depth. He asks How can that be possible?' Jesus responds that he is able to make known these divine messages because he, the Son of Man, has come from the heavenly world, and is thus able to share the secrets of God's design. He tells Nicodemus how he will share those secrets. Like the bronze serpent in the wilderness during the experience of the Exodus, the Son of Man must be lifted up from the earth so that all who gaze upon him will have eternal life. The word 'to lift up' has two meanings. Jesus will be be 'lifted up' on a cross, but in that event he will 'shine for the glory of God' as he reveals how much God loves us. He has indicated that he makes God known (the unique man from heaven), and how he makes known a God of love (on the cross).



WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL 2025

2nd Week of Easter

Acts 5: 17-26, Psalm 33: 2-9, R. V. 7, John 3 : 16-21

Reflection The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

God has so loved the world that he handed over his Son unto death that we might have life. It is not that God waits till the end of times to exercise his judgement. Jesus tells Nicodemus 'For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, so that through him the world might be saved" A frightened life, measuring every thought and action out of fear of God's final judgement is not a healthy Christian life. We judge ourselves by either accepting the message of love and life that comes to us from God, or we reject that message. We believe that the true light has come into the world in and through Jesus. Or we reject the light and choose to walk in the darkness of selfishness. The choice between light and darkness, between love and selfishness, is ours to make.



THURSDAY 1ST MAY 2025

St Joseph the Worker

2nd Week of Easter

Acts 5 : 27-33, , Psalm 33: 2, 9, 17-20. R. v. 7, John 3: 31-36

Reflection The Lord hears the cry of the poor

Today the reading from the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of John speak to us of the great saint, Joseph, foster-father of Jesus. Acts tells the story of the bravery of Peter and the other apostles who had been put in prison for preaching about Jesus, risen from the dead. Like Joseph who obeyed God's directions in his life. Peter insists that he must obey God by telling the story of Jesus crucified and raised. He says this even though he has already suffered for doing so and his words make powerful authorities want to kill him. The Gospel promises that 'whoever believes in the Son has eternal life'. Both St Peter and St Joseph encourage us to live by that same kind of faith in Jesus, Son of God.



FRIDAY 2ND MAY 2025

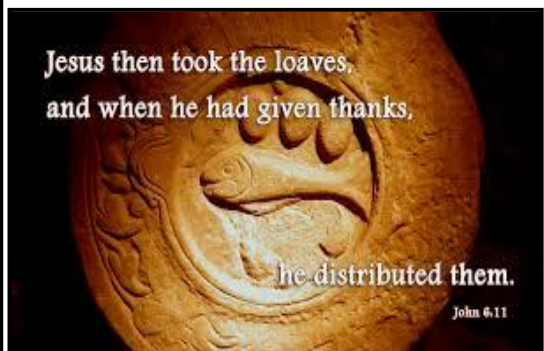
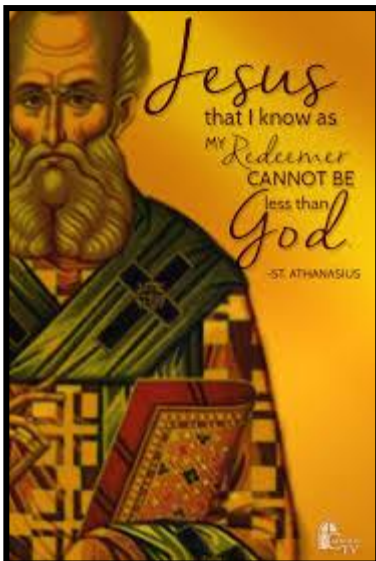
2nd Week of Easter

St Athanasius

Acts 5: 34-42, Psalm 26: 1,4, 13-14. R. cf. v. 4, John 6: 1-15.

Reflection.. One thing I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord.

St Athanasius is a very important defender of Christian faith. In his time, the early Church was thinking deeply about the full meaning of Jesus. Against some views that did not allow Jesus to be fully human and fully divine. Athanasius helped to explain this mystery in language that made sense to the people of his day. Like the apostles in today's reading from Acts, Athanasius suffered for his faith, being sent into exile five times. Athanasius wanted to nourish his people with the food of true faith. He was like Jesus who, in today's Gospel feeds five thousand people with just five barley loaves and two fish. John's way of telling the story shows Jesus as like Moses, who asked God for the manna that fed his people in the desert. The story is rich in Eucharistic language as we will hear next week.



SATURDAY 3rd MAY 2024

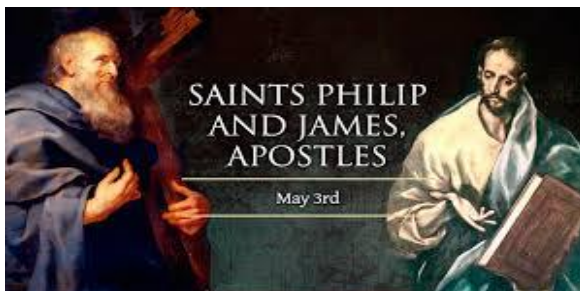
Sts Phillip and St James, Apostles

2nd Week of Easter

1 Corinthians 15: 1-8, Psalm 18: 2-5. R. v. 5, John 14: 6-14.

Reflection Their message goes out through all the earth.

Today, the church celebrates two of her foundational leaders, the apostles Phillip and James. James is named in the reading from First Corinthians, as one to whom the risen Lord appeared. Having seen Jesus who was crucified, now raised from the dead, is one of the hallmarks of an apostle. This experience is the basis of their authority to preach Jesus to the world. The apostle Phillip appears in the Gospel reading asking from Jesus what we all see: 'Show us the Father'. In his reply, Jesus calls Phillip and us to follow him, the way, the truth and the life, into the life with God that Jesus lives. In his apostolic preaching, perhaps among the Greeks, Phillip surely did works like those of Jesus, as Jesus promised his followers would do. Our Christian baptism sends each of us out as apostles, like James and Phillip, to make the Father of Jesus known.



3rd Sunday of Easter.

