

# **St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024**



## **Daily Reflections**

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

**MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

*The Annunciation of the Lord*

*Hebrews 10:4-10, Psalm 39: 7-11, R vv. 8,9, Luke 1:26-38*

*Reflections: Mary said Yes, yes yes , your way is best.*

The 'Immaculate Conception', which makes Mary, the young woman of Nazareth, 'highly favoured' by God does not dispense her from a natural human reaction before the divine revelation. Mary is greatly troubled by what the angel says, but with some assurance from the angel and with an open heart and soul Mary replies, 'I am the handmaiden of the Lord let what you have said be done to me'. Pope Francis comments on Mary's reply, 'We are struck by the strength of the young Mary's "yes"... She was determined; she knew what was at stake and she said "yes" without thinking twice. Hers was the "yes" of someone prepared to be committed, someone willing to take a risk with no more security than the certainty of knowing that she was the bearer of a promise .... Her "yes" and her desire to serve were stronger than any doubts or difficulties. Let us pray, through Mary, for the grace we need to hear and give our 'yes' to the voice of God in our lives.



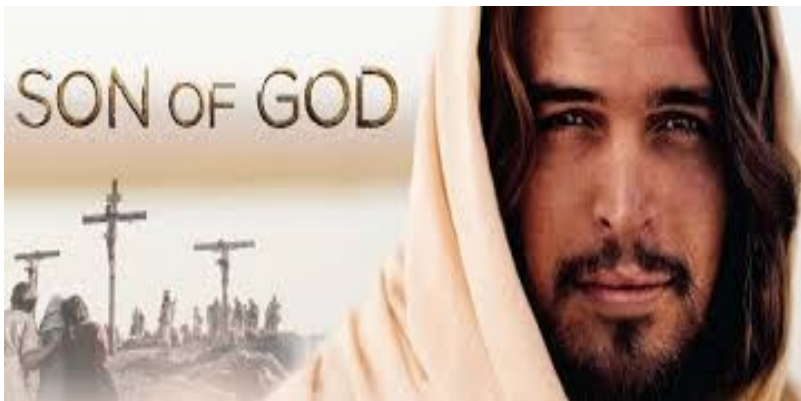
**TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

**2<sup>ND</sup> WEEK OF EASTER**

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

***Reflection. Everyone who believes will have eternal life.***

In this conversation, Jesus is addressing not only Nicodemus but also Judaism which Nicodemus represents. Nicodemus teaches the people of Israel the Torah (las) which Moses received from God on Mount Sinai. In comparison with Moses, Jesus is far superior – while Moses was a ‘servant’ in the household of God, Jesus is ‘the Son’. Jesus comes from God and therefore can speak about God with finality. Scriptures speaks of Enoch, Moses, Elijah and Daniel as taken to heaven, physically or in visions. Jesus cannot be compared with these men who were given a limited vision of heaven to reveal fully God’s design which was only partially revealed in the past to Moses and the prophets. With Jesus, God’s ‘public’ revelation of himself is now complete.



**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

*Acts 5: 17-26, Psalm 33: 2-9. R. v. 7, John3: 16-21*

*Reflection As you live by the truth – you come into the light*

The word 'world' (Greek kosmos) is used in John's Gospel with a variety of meanings, some positive (God so loved the world... (John 3: 16) and some negative as in today's Gospel where 'world' refers to people who do not accept Jesus. Jesus is the focus of their opposition, and he will fall victim to their hostility. In his absence, the world's hatred will be directed to his associates and friends. Jesus urges his followers to love one another. If love is the distinguishing mark of the disciples, then, hatred characterises the world's response to Jesus' followers. How do you think of the 'world'? As God's creation and gift to us? Do you seek to play your role to make the world a better place? Does your heart transcend narrow horizons to feel the needs of other people? When, 'world' is used to describe realities opposed to the will of God, do you strive to avoid worshipping the world and its deceptive pleasures!



**THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter*

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

***Reflection Yes Lord, I believe.***

To 'believe' – one of John's favourite expressions – does not just mean to hold on to some opinions or truth; it connotes total confidence in Jesus. Belief involves the way a person lives, acts and keeps the commandments. On the other hand, 'disobedience' (John 3:26) is the refusal to believe in Jesus as a personal saviour but to make a fundamental choice affecting one's whole life. This choice is freely taken. A person who chooses Jesus is already on the road to salvation, beginning to have eternal life.



Our faith is a gift  
from God but we  
must also nurture  
this gift of faith by  
our actual acts of  
faith so that it could  
grow.

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**FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

**2<sup>ND</sup> WEEK OF EASTER**

*Acts 5: 34-42, Psalm 26: 1, 4, 13-14, R cf v 4, 9, 17-20. R. v. 7,  
John 6: 1-15.*

*Reflection.. They were impressed by the signs He gave them ...*

Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and fish to feed the hungry crowd is reported in all four Gospels. The Fourth Gospel specifies that the loaves were of barley. The poor ate bread made of barley. Barley survives the heat and water shortage better than wheat and ripens in less time. The well- to- do usually ate wheat bread. There are parallels in the account to the story of Elisha's feeding of one hundred men (2 Kings 4: 24-44). Elisha's servant voices an impossibility: how can one hundred people be satisfied with twenty barley loaves? Here the disciples tell Jesus that five loaves and two fish are all they have. The allusion to this episode tells us that with Jesus, the time of miracles associated with the prophets Elijah and Elisha, has come again. 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted', Jesus tells the disciples. The Greek word translated as '\pieces' or 'fragments' is also used for the sacred hosts in the Eucharist. Holy Communion is this a kind of sharing in the multiplication of bread performed by Jesus.



**SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter**

*Acts 6: 1-7, Psalm 32: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19, r. v. 22, John 6: 16-21.*

*Reflection Lord, let your mercy be on us as we place our trust in You.*

The Greek 'Ego eimi' literally means 'I am'. In today's Gospel it is translated as 'it is I'. In the context of the story, Jesus may have said to his disciples, 'it is, I, Jesus' – your Master. There is no need to be afraid'. But these words of assurance do not do justice to the deeper sense the evangelist intends. 'I Am' is how God refers to himself in the Old Testament, especially when he makes his presence felt by his people to help them overcome fear. In the Gospel of John, Jesus makes Ego eimi statements with strong overtones of divinity. His revelation of himself as 'Light of the World', 'Bread of Life', 'Good Shepherd', 'Resurrection and the Life,' etc., is preceded by 'I Am'. Here, he comes to his frightened disciples as one who has power over the strong wind. The disciples therefore have nothing to fear.



# 3rd Sunday of Easter.

