

St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong

Monday 11th August 2025
Saturday 16th August 2025



Daily Reflections

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

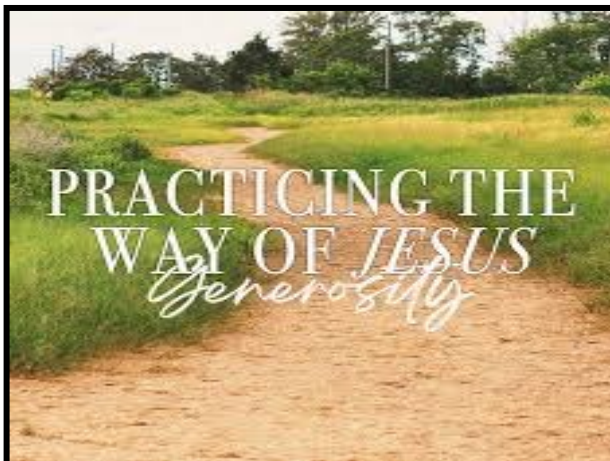
MONDAY 11TH AUGUST Y 2025

19th week in Ordinary Time

**Deuteronomy 10: 12-22, Psalm 147: 12-15, 19-20, R. v. 12,
Matthew 17: 22-27.**

Reflection: What does God ask of you – follow his ways and to love him - For the Lord your God is good.

In Jesus time the Jews paid tribute and taxes to the Roman occupiers of their land, a bitter reminder of their subjugation. The people were also taxed individually with a half-shekel payment annually for the Temple. This was something the Jews would have complied with willingly as it was for the Lord. The exchange between Jesus and Peter shows that Jesus was obedient to the laws and traditions of Israel. It may also reflect the duties of Christians. Jesus as Son of God and his disciples, children of the kingdom, are the king's son and daughters and are exempt in principle from paying the tax. By paying even though he does not owe anything, Jesus makes Peter understand that Christians should shoulder their duties towards their wider community as ordinary citizens. Catholics may not be asked for a certain percentage of their income as contribution for the Church and its mission, but they should show concern for the parish and community by putting aside something for the Lord.



TUESDAY 12TH AUGUST 2025

19th Week in Ordinary Time

*Deuteronomy 31:1-8, Psalm Deuteronomy 32: 3-4, 7-9, R. v. 9,
Matthew 18: 1-5, 10, 12-14.*

Reflections: In giving you receive.... In loving you are loved.

Chapter 18 of Matthew collects Jesus' teaching on how the believing community should deal with one another. The discourse begins with the theme of greatness in the kingdom of heaven. It is measured not by rank or power but by humility and service that welcomes the little ones. This is shown by the care of the disciples not to cause scandal, that is, to cause others to lose their faith in Jesus. Divisions among the believers, immorality, and disrespecting the poor are among actions that scandalise. The second challenge for the community is to take care of members who go astray. This is taught by Jesus in the parable of the Lost Sheep. The model of this is Jesus who seeks the lost and the stray sheep. Pope Francis says, 'In Jesus' vision there are no sheep that are definitively lost, but only sheep that must be found again... to God no one is definitively lost. Never! To the last moment, God is searching for us... No distance can keep the shepherd away'.



WEDNESDAY 13TH AUGUST 2025

19th Week in Ordinary Time

***Deuteronomy 34: 1-12, Psalm 65: 1-3, 5, 16-1. R. cf. vv. 20 9,
Matthew 18: 15-20.,***

Reflection: Blessed be God who filled my soul with life!

The Church enfolds in her bosom the just and sinner alike. Along with those who are faithful, there are members who stray. Are these to be separated from the community so as not to corrupt others? The sin of member impacts not only individual relationships but also the community. The process of dealing with the erring member involves confrontation, repentance and forgiveness. But first the sinner is to be considered as a family member. Thinking of the sinner as a brother, or sister, or close companion intensifies the need for resolution. The first step is to confront the matter directly, one-to-one, face-to-face. If this does not solve the problem, someone else is involved in the conversation and if all else fails, the matter is taken before the community. This process is undertaken because sin has implications for everyone and if it is possible to bring back one who strays, all in the community are helped.



THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST 2025

19th Week in Ordinary Time

St Maximilian Mary Kolbe

Joshua 3:7-11, 13-17, Psalm 113A: 1-6, Matthew 18: 21—19:1.

Reflection: Forgive each other as Christ has forgiven you

It was common practice among the Jews to forgive three times. So, Peter is going all out to double and add one, asking if we are expected to forgive seven times. Seven is the biblical number for perfection. But Jesus calls us to forgive as many times as it takes to be set free from desiring vengeance. It is not counting sins against others. It is forgiving so often that we can easily lose count. Jesus knows we will experience hurt, betrayal, deceit and a host of other offenses—but love covers this multitude of sins. Forgiveness is not something natural to any of us; more natural is the desire to avenge the wrong done to us. We learn that forgiveness is a divine quality, and we need God's grace daily to forgive as we should.



FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST 2025

19th Week in Ordinary Time

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Apocalypse 11: 19, 12: 1-6, 10, Psalm 44: 10-12, 16. R. v. 10,
1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, Luke 1: 39-56.*

Reflection. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

Today's solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is closely bound to the first privilege of Mary. By her Immaculate Conception, Mary was spared from sin and as a result she was not subject to the law of remaining in the corruption of the grave. Pop Pius XII, in his Apostolic Constitution Munificentissimus Deus, declared as a divinely revealed dogma 'that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory'.

In her pilgrimage on earth, Mary cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope and burning charity in the work of the Saviour. She was faithful to God from the consent which she loyally gave at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross. Taken to heaven, she exercises her maternal care for the brothers and sisters of her Son. The Church looks at the Blessed Mother as its model in its exercise of these virtues. The Church likewise looks at the Blessed Mother as a sign of true hope and comfort for the pilgrim people of God. Where she is now, the people hope to follow. What she is now—glorious in her body and soul—the believers hope someday to become, glorified in their own humanity.



SATURDAY 16th AUGUST 2025

19th Week in Ordinary time

St Stephen of Hungary

Joshia 24: 14-29, Psalm 15: 1-2, 5, 7-8, 11, R. cf. v. .5,

Reflection: Come As you Are

Parents in Jesus' time recognised his genuine care and concern for children and they would bring them for a blessing. The disciples, however, saw children as unimportant and rebuked parents taking up the time and attention of their Teacher. But children are important and the greatest of all in the eyes of Jesus. He is unique among ancient religious and philosophical teachers in recognising children as significant. Moreover, children represent those whom the world considers weak and unimportant. Jesus' hands laid over them in blessing are like a roof that protects them from harm. The laying on of hands is also a gesture of empowerment. By placing his hands on the children, Jesus confirms the dignity of children and the 'small people' they represent as children of the heavenly Father.



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 12, 49-53

