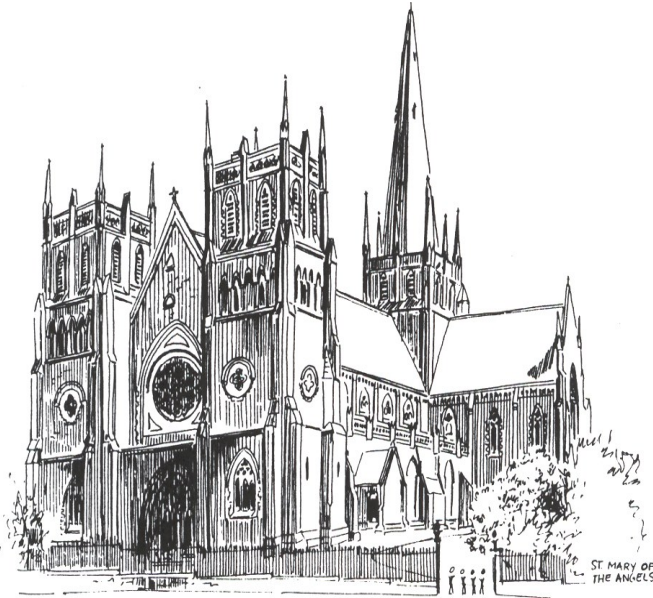


St. Mary of the Angels Geelong

Monday 20th January 2025

Saturday 25th January 2025



Daily Reflections

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

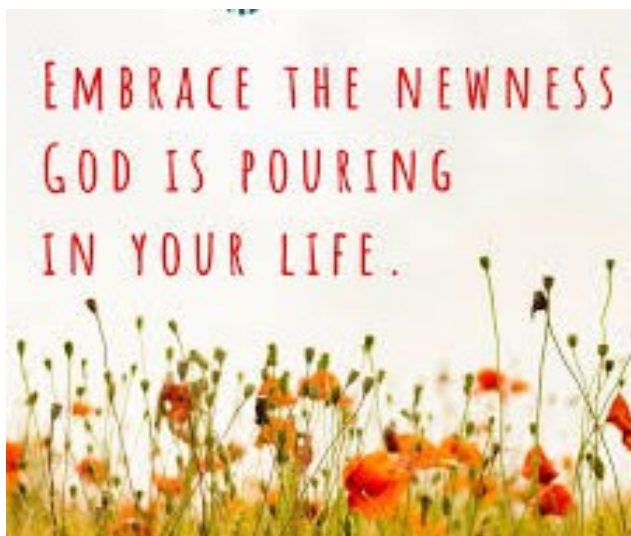
MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2025

2nd Week in Ordinary Time

Hebrews 5:1-10, Psalm 10 : 1-4. R. v. 4, Mark 2: 18-22

Reflection: Lord, let your face shine on me.

We are familiar with life's difficulties, sufferings and duty-bound obligations. We are continually challenged by their presence in the life of faith. Yet another side of life also calls for our attention: do we fully embrace the opportunities to experience joy, pleasure, laughter and fun. These are to be embraced, not as an end in themselves, but as integral to our relationship with God, self and one another in a healthy and holistic commitment to 'life to the full'. Do we treasure those periods of peace, free of war, rest, free of work tasks, feasting, free of fasting, or material want? Can we hear this challenge in today's Gospel as Jesus is questioned about fasting practices that were observed by the disciples? Today, reflect upon your own practices and appreciation of 'feasting and fasting



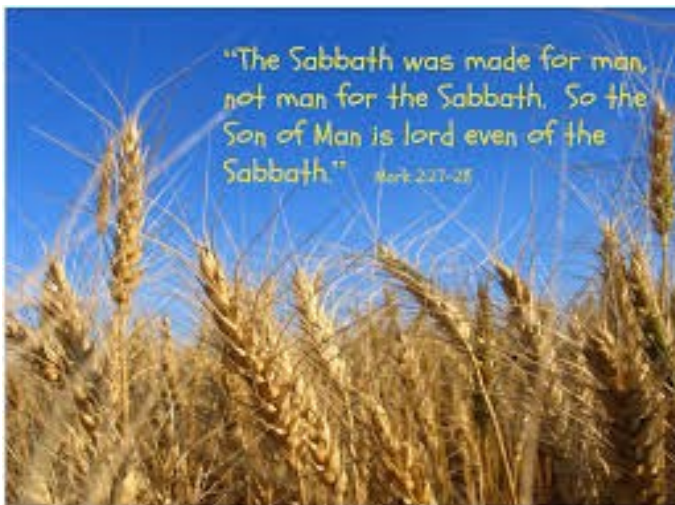
TUESDAY 21st JANUARY 2025

2nd Week in Ordinary Time

Hebrews 6: 10-20, Psalm 110: 1-2, 4-5, 9, 10. R. v 5, Mark 2: 23-28

Reflection: The Lord will remember his covenant forever

'...the Son of Man is master even of the Sabbath.' We usually think of this saying as referring to Jesus' authority over all things, including the holiest day of the week., the Sabbath. And, certainly, Jesus has that authority. Scripture scholars also observe that this saying may have originally meant that the Sabbath is meant to be received as a joy, not a burden, by everyone (in its original use, 'son of man' referred to an ordinary human being). What a lovely thought: this special day is yours and mine, to take joy in and to live fully! We have that right, that freedom and privilege, due to our being created by the One who created this day, for us. It is a message of life, joy and freedom. God entrusts us with lifegiving gifts and opportunities which we are allowed and expected to partake in as God's children.



WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY 2025

2nd Week in Ordinary Time

Hebrews 7: 1-3, 15-17, Psalm 109: 1-4, Mark 3: 1-6.

Reflection: In you Lord I place my trust.

Jesus meets controversy in this particular intense Gospel scene. We should take care not to interpret his 'anger' as passing judgement on the so-called "legalistic' Judaism or to pit Jesus against his own tradition. Remember, there was a plurality of Jewish beliefs and practices in the time of Jesus, and he was not unique in entering into debates over the interpretation of Israel's scriptures. His conflict with certain Pharisees does not mean opposition to all Pharisees or to his Jewish tradition *per se*. Here, the anger of Jesus seems to point to the unwillingness of these particular challenges to enter honestly into the debate and to rejoice in God's healing power. How do we enter church debates today? With openness and honesty, or with 'hidden agenda'? Are there times when we fail to recognise and affirm a gospel initiative or a fruitful ministry out of jealousy or small-minded suspicion.



THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY 2025

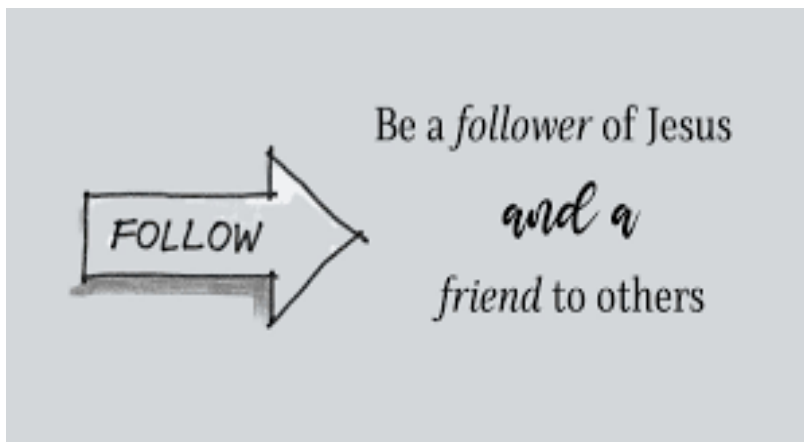
2nd Week in Ordinary Time

Hebrews 7: 25—8:6, Psalm 39 7-10. 17, R.. cf. vv. 8,9.. R. v. 8,

Mark 3: 7-12

Reflection. Here I am Lord, - come to do your will

He warned them strongly not to make him know'. In Mark's Gospel Jesus often commands people not to publicise his miracles or his identity. This might seem odd to us – aren't we supposed to proclaim, the Good News? How are we to interpret this Marcan 'messianic secret', as it is called? Is it Jesus way of seeking to escape the notice of dangerous governing authorities? Is it the Gospel author's way of saying that Jesus won't be fully understood until later, after his death? Or, a way of explaining why Jesus was not more widely known and embraced as Messiah? This intriguing matter is not settled among scholars. But how about you? Upon a close, prayerful reading of the text, and in the context of the Gospel as a whole, share with a friend your best insight and ideas regarding this 'messianic secret'. Enjoy and treasure your Scriptural journey.



FRIDAY 24th JANUARY 2025

St Francis de Sales

2nd Week in Ordinary Time

Hebrews 8: 6-13, Psalm 84: 8, 10-14. R.v.11, Mark 3: 13-19

Reflection. Kindness and truth shall meet.

Here is an enjoyable, thought- provoking table topic for your next family meal or parish dinner. Ask your guests to name 'the Twelve' apostles (see today's Gospel; and you might also compare with the lists in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke). Name all twelve (the number is significant) and receive a prize! If nobody can name all twelve, playfully chide them, and probe the topic further: 'The Twelve' are crucial to our understanding of the very existence of the Church, and yet we don't know their names? As part of your discussion mention that, while Jesus' inner circle may have included more than twelve people, the biblical backdrop of the twelve tribes of Israel informs the meaning of 'the Twelve' – a symbolic number that represents the people of God. Our Christian story is anchored in this epic story of peoplehood.



SATURDAY 25th JANUARY 2025

2nd week in Ordinary Time

The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle

Acts 22:3-16, Psalm 116: 1-2, R. Mark 16: 15.

Reflection Go out to all the world. And tell the Good News

What is remarkable about the scene of Jesus commissioning his apostles is the fact that they are still with him! After all the tumultuous events that have occurred (ministry, arrest, crucifixion, death, resurrection), once again they all gather around Jesus. Well, almost. One is no longer. At this point, they are 'the Eleven', not 'the Twelve'. Even in a Gospel scene with the risen Jesus present, the painful challenges and ambiguities of life remain evident. Yet, we are reassured that Jesus has not given up on his little circle of friends and c-workers. They are far from perfect as disciples, yet they have 'shown up', they are still here, receiving Jesus' trust in them and his hope for 'all creation' in a whole new, unfolding adventure. In time they will be joined by others, including Paul, whose conversion we celebrate today. As disciples, may we too, despite our failings, be willing to open ourselves to Jesus' steadfast love, trust and commission.



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



