

St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong

Daily Reflections



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

MONDAY 4 JANUARY 2021—FR JAMES MCKARNS

Monday after The Epiphany

1 John 3:22-4:6 Psalm 2:7-8, 10-12 Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

Little Children

You belong to God, children... 1 John 4:4

St John was the last surviving apostle of the original Twelve. It is commonly thought he lived for 100 years. At the time of his advanced age, many people would ask him to share his insights and memories of Jesus. What was it like to walk with Jesus on this earth for three years? What about his miracles, the meanings of his parables and other deep truths?

John would only reply with five words to summarise the gospel message: “Little children, love one another!”

Today, let us pause, close our eyes and picture this man who sat beside Jesus at the Last Supper, was at Calvary and then witnessed the empty tomb. Hear him speaking those same five words to us. Remember how we once were as children-loving, trusting, kind and innocent. “Love one another” is the teaching of Jesus for children of all ages.



TUESDAY 5 JANUARY 2021 —PAT GOHN

Tuesday after The Epiphany

1 John 4:7-10 Psalm 72:1-4, 7-8 Mark 6:34-44

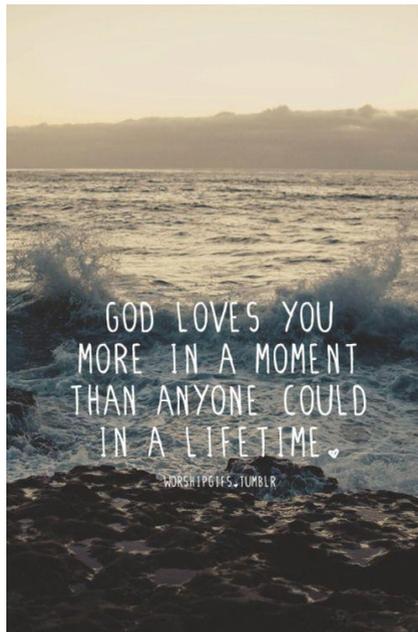
The First Gift

...for God is love. 1 John 4:8

“...God is love”—likely one of the most quoted phrases from the Bible-packs a profound truth. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in paragraph 733, explains: “God is love” and love is his first gift, containing all others.”

God loves you. God loves me. If we miss out on knowing this, we will miss much more besides. God’s love for us is personal-the first gift he wishes us to accept from him.

Christmas offers us a season to reflect on this singular gift that sparks the abundance of all God’s gifts. God’s unfathomable love gives us Jesus, the Child of Bethlehem, born to save us. Love also sends the Spirit-and the Church-through which we have the Bible and sacraments and all the graces that flow to us through them. All are given by God so we might know this simple truth: God loves us.



WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 2021—MELANIE RIGNEY

Wednesday after The Epiphany

1 John 4:11-18 Psalm 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mark 6:45-52

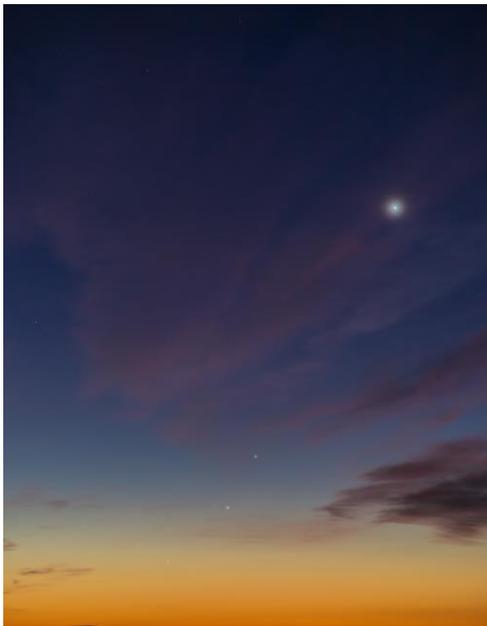
Darkest Before the Dawn

But at once he spoke with them, “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!” Mark 6:50

We can imagine how the disciples felt. The wind in those predawn hours was challenging even the experienced seamen, and now, to make things even worse, a ghost appeared to be advancing toward them! Where was Jesus when they most needed him and his protection?

It can be hard for us too, to see him when we most need him. It’s easy to feel alone and abandoned when we lose a loved one or get a frightening medical diagnosis or miss out on a promotion or trip that we so wanted. But truly, we are never alone, as dark as things seem. When we believe in the Light, regardless of how dim it looks to us in our fear, our eyes will be opened wider, and we will be consoled.

Brother Jesus, reveal your presence to me.



THURSDAY 7 JANUARY 2021—SR. CHRIS KOELLHOFFER

Thursday after The Epiphany

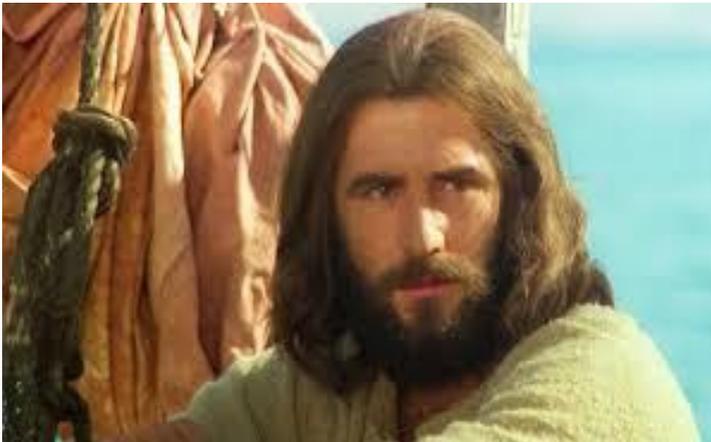
1 John 4:19-5:4 Psalm 72:1-2, 14-15, 17 Luke 4:14-22a

Our Ability to Love

If anyone says, “I love God,” but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 1 John 4:20

The spiritual writer Ronald Rolheiser talks about our need to have a God with skin, a God that we can see and touch and hear. With the incarnation—God’s taking on our human condition—we have exactly that, a God with skin.

While the incarnation of Jesus Christ is truly unique, something of this touchable God is present in all people, who are made in God’s image. This includes those who may test our ability to love: the family member towards whom we hold a grudge, the co-worker who annoys us, the neighbour who always appears at the moment when we’re pressed for time. These and all people are reminders that we may encounter God in others every day of our lives. The challenge is in recognising his image right before our eyes.



FRIDAY 8 JANUARY 2021—ELIZABETH DUFFY

Friday after The Epiphany

1 John 5:5-13 Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20 Luke 5:12-16

Clean

“Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean.” Then Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, “I do will it. Be made clean.”
Luke 5:12-13

The American spirit suggests that all things are possible if we work hard enough. We forget that sometimes people get a leg up by being in the right place at the right time or knowing the right person. The leper in today’s gospel is in the right place at the right time. Though his diagnosis of leprosy is terminal, by chance he encounters Jesus and recognises him as the right person, the Christ. The person of Jesus, which contains God entire, desires the leper’s good health. We may be tempted to attribute this healing to the leper’s audacity in asking or to his sense of perception in recognising Jesus. But the exchange between Jesus and the leper makes clear it is Christ’s choice and desire to lift the leper out of his “uncleanness.” His will makes healing possible.



SATURDAY 9 JANUARY 2021—VIVIAN AMU

Saturday after The Epiphany

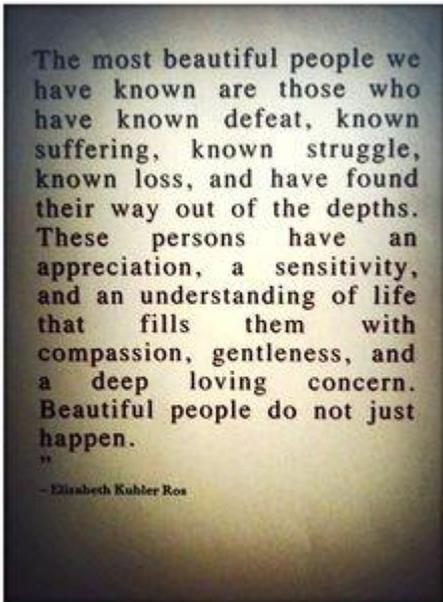
1 John 5:14-21 Psalm 149:1-6, 9John 3:22-30

Beginnings and Endings

No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. John 3:27

As John learned that Jesus had begun baptising people, his joy came from knowing that he was part of a much bigger plan—a holy purpose. For my part, I find it difficult to let go of things I enjoy or things that have become part of my public identity.

Even though we think we are in control of our lives, nothing happens without God making room for it, and nothing begins or ends except when God says it's time. Every gift, talent and opportunity we have received is for the greater glory of God. Further, everything that is taken from us, and all our transitions, may ultimately be for our greater good. If we trust God, we will see things come full circle. We will know our part in the greater narrative. We will experience joy in our various beginnings and in our endings.



The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.

— Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

*A new commandment I give
unto you*

