

St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong

Monday 28th July 2025

Saturday 2nd August 2025



Daily Reflections

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

MONDAY 28TH JULY 2025

17th week in Ordinary Time

Exodus 32: 15-24, 30-34, Psalm 105: 19-23, R.v.1, Matthew 13: 31-35.

Reflections: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

Today's Gospel is one of Great hope and one that speaks to the gentle, ever-present transformative power of God and the kingdom of God within us and among us. Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which is a tiny seed that grows into a tree that provides shade and shelter and food for birds and animals. Likewise, even with a small amount of faith on our part, God, can work wonders in us. Often this 'work' is invisible. Just like the yeast, the kingdom of heaven does indeed permeate every aspect of our lives. God is always at work in us, despite our littleness, or our tiny seed-like faith. *Lord, may I be like the mustard seed, and leavened loaf, growing and expanding with your love and grace, so that I too may partake in the kingdom of God.*



TUESDAY 29TH JULY 2025

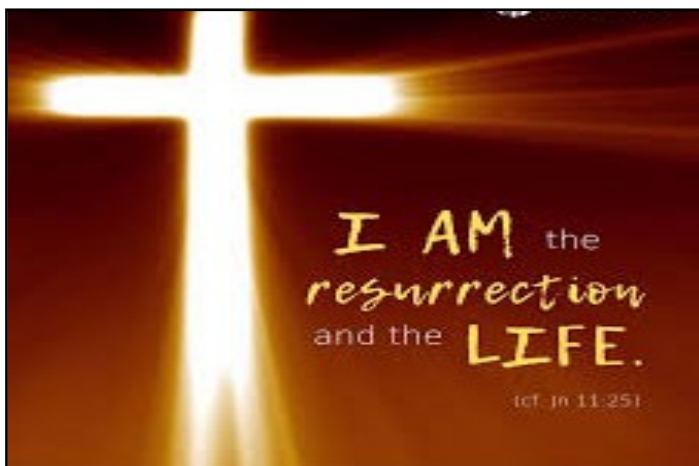
17th Week in Ordinary Time

St Martha, Mary and Lazarus

1 John 4:7-16, Psalm 33: 2-11. R v2. Alt. R. v.9,

Reflections: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

This is a truly remarkable and powerful Gospel story. It speaks of those who have a deep and committed faith, and of the divine power and authority of Jesus to raise the dead. Sisters, Martha and Mary had lost their brother, Lazarus, four days before Jesus visited their home. And though he was dead, when Jesus visited, Martha said to Jesus, ... I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you. And Jesus responds, 'Your brother will rise again.' Take a moment of picture this encounter. Imagine the despair and hopelessness perhaps being experienced by Martha and Mary. And yet, in the midst of that, underpinned by her faith in Jesus, Martha is able to call on him., and to trust in his ability to raise the dead. Its truly amazing. Jesus, in our darkest moments, when we are filled with misery and despair, grief and loss, may we call out to you in faith, trust and hope. Jesus, you are the Son of God, and have the power to raise the dead. Heal us of all he dead parts in our lives, that we may have life in your name.



WEDNESDAY 30TH JULY 2025

17th Week in Ordinary Time

Exodus 34: 29-35, Psalm 98:5-7, 9. R. cf. v. 9, Matthew 13:44-46

***Reflection: The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure –
hidden in the field.***

Jesus shares two parables that demonstrate the immense value in discovering and doing what we can to protect and nurture the kingdom of heaven. In the first parable, the man discovers the treasure in the field and sells everything to buy the field. In the second parable, the merchant is actively looking for the treasure, the fine pearls, and when he finds one of great value, he goes and sells everything he owns, to buy it. And so with us. Whether we're actively searching for God's kingdom, or we just stumble across it, we are invited to recognise its incomparable worth and value. We are called to give up everything else to receive and possess the kingdom, and to spread God's grace and love among others. May we have the courage to give all of ourselves to receive the kingdom of God in our lives, and to share it with others. There is nothing more valuable.



THURSDAY 31ST JULY 2025

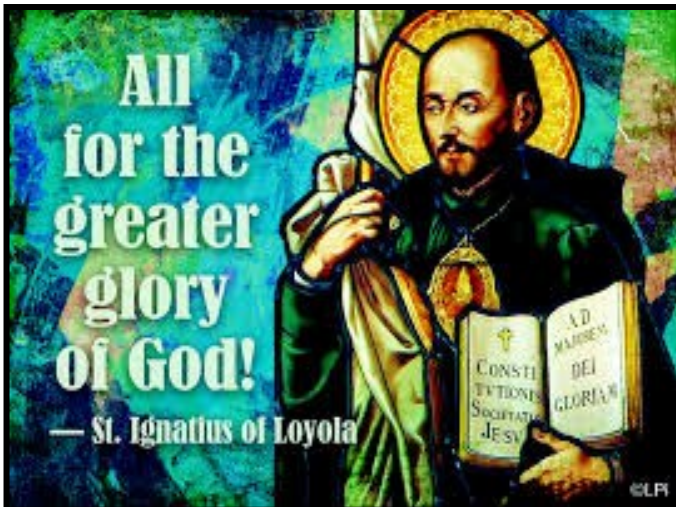
17th Week in Ordinary Time

St Ignatius of Loyola

*Exodus 40: 16-21, 34-38, Psalm 83:3-6, 8, 11, R. v. 2,
Matthew 13: 47-53.*

Reflection: Give me only your love and your grace.

St Ignatius of Loyola was born in Spain in the sixteenth century. During his career as a soldier fighting against the French, he was seriously injured in battle. While recovering, Ignatius read a book about the life of Christ and another that was a collection of saints' stories. Inspired by these books, he decided to use his talents to serve God and God's people. He studied for the priesthood, travelled extensively, and later, with friends founded the Company of Jesus (also known as the Jesuits). St Ignatius developed the Spiritual Exercises to help deepen our relationship with God. Central to these practices is paying attention to the interior movements of our hearts, Ignatius: *Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will ... Everything is yours, do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.*



FRIDAY 1ST AUGUST 2025

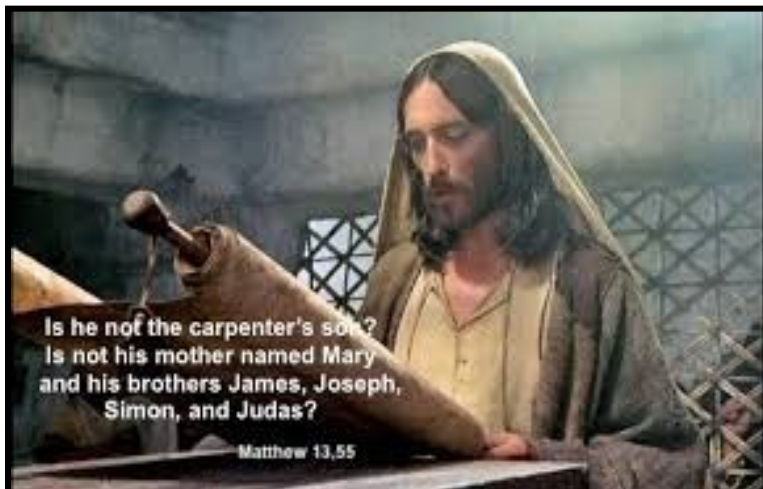
17th Week in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 23: 1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37, Psalm 80: 3-6, 10-11, R. v. 2.

Matthew 13: 54-58

Reflection. Sing with joy to God, our help.

While the crowds were admiring of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:28), in Nazareth astonishment takes the form of offense. Confronted with the people's lack of faith, Jesus does not work many mighty deeds. Familiarity with Jesus' background and family leads his own townspeople to regard him as pretentious. Maybe they share other people's low estimation of their town. 'Can anything good come from Nazareth? (John 1:46). They could not believe that Almighty God would lower himself to talk through a carpenter from Nazareth, and one who had not studied the Law like the official teachers. This, ultimately is the scandal of the Incarnation. In the final times, God spoke to us through his Son (Hebrews 1:2) who chose to humble himself, to be born among ordinary folks, and to be close to people on the margins. In Jesus, who became like us in all things but sin, God enters into the ordinariness and lowliness of our human nature and raises it up.



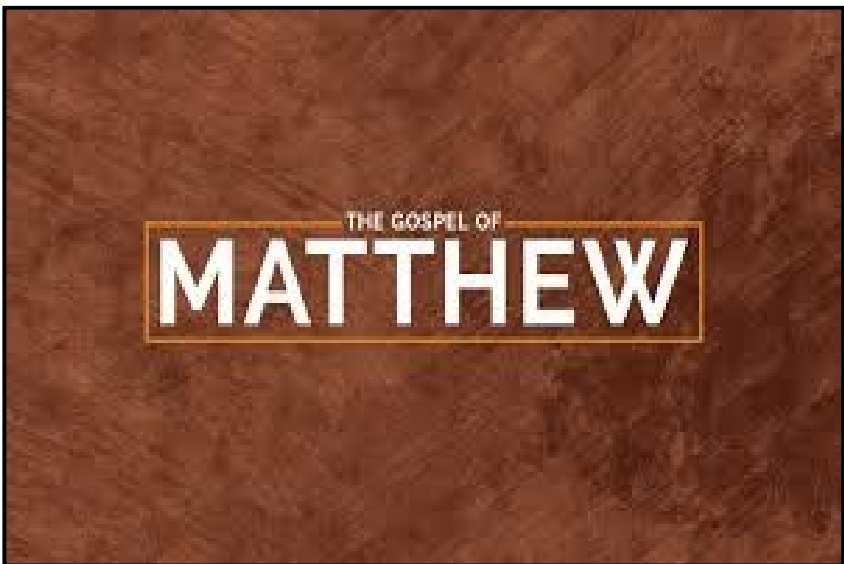
SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST 2025

17th Week in Ordinary time

Leviticus 25: 1, 8-17, Psalm 66: 2-3, 5, 7-8, R. v. 4, Matthew 14:1-12.

Reflection: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

While Herod Antipas is referred to as 'king', he is more accurately designated as the tetrarch (rule of the fourth part). At the death of Herod the Great, Antipas received Galilee and Peraea, one fourth of his father's kingdom. Antipas ruled from 4BC to 39AD, so during the ministries of both John the Baptist and Jesus. He was involved in the trial of Jesus and was also responsible for the beheading of John the Baptist. Upon hearing the reports regarding Jesus, Herod is filled with fear that John might have been raised from the dead. Yet his hardened heart remained unchanged, feeling no remorse over his sins. He ended his life in Gaul where the Roman emperor Caligula banished him, and where Herodias joined him in exile.



18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

the Parable of
the Rich Fool



THE STORIES JESUS TOLD