

St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong

Monday 16th June 2025

Saturday 21st June 2025



Daily Reflections

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

MONDAY 16TH JUNE 2025

11th week in Ordinary Time

2 Corinthians 6: 1-10, Psalm 97: 1-4, R. v. 2, Matthew 5: 38-42.

Reflections: The Lord has made known his Salvation.

Some warmongering world leaders reject outright the well-known words of Jesus about turning the other cheek. Others, like Mahatma Gandhi, have drawn inspiration from them. Admittedly they are among the very hard sayings of Jesus. They are not so much about meekness or submission to a violent attacker, rather with curbing our instinctive desire for retaliation when we are wronged. We all know how disarming it is when, instead of immediate counterattack, an atmosphere of understanding and reconciliation is initiated. Think of the times you have received such a response in answer to your hastily judged and perhaps even justified attack on another's reputation or even on the person themselves. If there is a situation in your life and relationships where you are called to have such Christlike generosity, do not let this favourable time pass you by. Then armed with the 'weapons of righteousness' such as the word of truth and the power of God you become an instrument of the grace of God.



TUESDAY 17TH JUNE 2025

10th Week in Ordinary Time

2 Corinthians 8: 1-9, Psalm 145:2, 5-9, R. v. 2, Matthew 5: 43-48

Reflection: Praise the Lord my Soul

In his appeal to the generosity of the Corinthian community Paul draws on the example of Jesus in a statement reminiscent of the well-known hymn in Philippians that offers Jesus' self-emptying as a model for that community. In today's Gospel Jesus draws on his own experience of his Father's abundant goodness and impartiality to encourage his listeners to look beyond the restrictive demands of the law to a wider and more generous application. This is why throughout the chapters known as the Sermon on Mount the terms 'my Father', 'your Father', 'our Father' are so often interchangeable. Jesus invites us into the same relationship he has with his Father. This theme is developed at a much deeper level in the Last Supper discourse in the Gospel of John. How can we be as perfect as God or Jesus? Only by understanding 'as' to mean in the same way and knowing that to be perfect is about reaching one's goal or potential.



WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE 2025

11th Week in Ordinary Time

2 Corinthians 9: 6-11, Psalm 111 : 1-4, 9. R. v. 1,

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18.

Reflection: Let your hearts take comfort

Having addressed some of the prescriptions of the Law and widening their application to respect the way their observance affects others, Jesus now turns to the foundational pious practices of the Pharisees—almsgiving, prayer and fasting. He challenges their tendency to emphasise and publicise such good deeds in order to be given recognition and approval. The image of our private room as the proper place to pray points to the importance of our interior disposition. While there may be a temptation sometimes to seek acknowledgement devotion—is clearly not in the spirit of Jesus' admonition. In carrying out any of these practices it is not so much what we say or do but what Jesus does in us and through us. And we should never forget the reward we receive out of God's goodness both here and in the fullness of life.



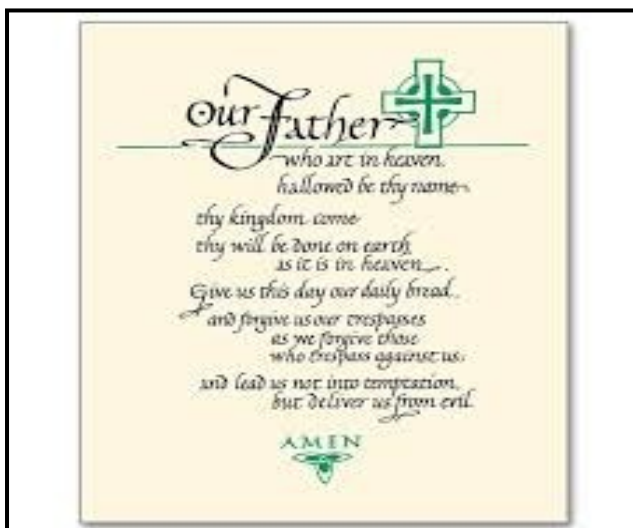
THURSDAY 19TH JUNE 2025

11th Week in Ordinary Time

**2 Corinthians 11: 1-11, Psalm 110: 1-4, 7-8 R. v 7,
Matthew 6: 7-15.**

Reflection: Your works O Lord are justice and truth.

The Our Father is not just 'the Lord's prayer', and so the perfect prayer, it is in itself a lesson in the way of pray. We first acknowledge the existence and presence of God and express the desire to submit ourselves to the Father's way and will. Only then are we able to place our needs before our God and Father—for material sustenance, forgiveness of our failings and that we be not left alone in the time of temptation and trial. Whenever we pray this prayer Jesus prays in us and with us. All our prayer should, in the same way, flow out of this prayer, Jesus returns elsewhere to the need to acknowledge our Father's awareness of what we really need. It is not just words that matter, rather a humble opening to the abundant love and care of the Father. It is then that we will be capable of entering the reciprocal Flow of God's goodness and forgiveness.



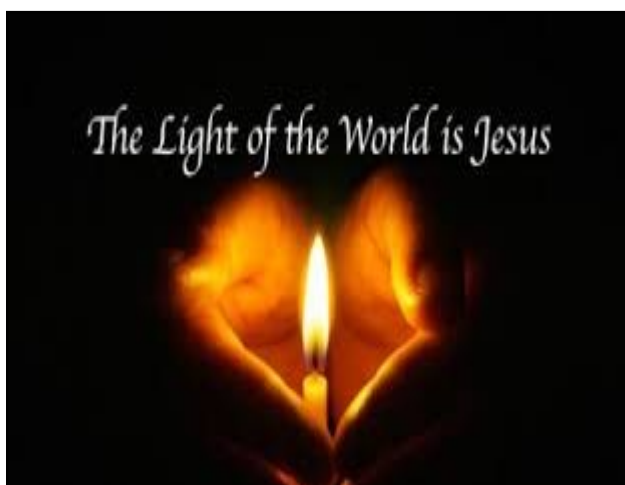
FRIDAY 20TH JUNE 2025

11th Week in Ordinary Time

**2 Corinthians 11: 18, 21-30, Psalm 33: 2-7, R. cf. v. 18,
Matthew 6: 19-23.**

Reflection. Christ be our light

Each of today's readings ends with a memorable sentence. After a long litany of his trials and privations Paul concludes by writing that his only genuine cause for boasting is his weakness. He has been accused of not inspiring others because of his physical stature and the stuttering nature of his speech. Moreover the 'super apostles' in Jerusalem still have their suspicions about him. While his defence may seem over the top to our eyes it most likely reflects the reality of his struggles. We have to acknowledge that sometimes our negative experiences and even our own frailties have been proven to give us courage and strength. And we can surely only be more fully in control of our lives if we discover the folly of greed and the desire for greater acquisitions and know where our real treasure is to be found. It is the light shed by the message and teachings of Jesus that provides the lamp for our path.



SATURDAY 21st JUNE 2025

11th Week in Ordinary time

**2 Corinthians 12: 1-10, Psalm 33: 8-13. R. v. 9,
Matthew 6: 24-34.**

Reflection Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

The intriguing phrase ‘thorn in the flesh’ in the reading from Second Corinthians has been given multiple interpretations. It is wrong to assume that because of the word “flesh” it is to do with some issue of a sexual nature. That is never what Paul means when using that word. Perhaps it was some physical ailment. Elsewhere Paul mentions a difficulty with his eyes. Whatever, it leads him once again to place his total trust in God’s grace and the power of Christ. Whether our weaknesses are physical or moral, we too rely on the example of Jesus, Paul and today’s saint, Aloysius Gonzaga, for support and guidance. As well as anxieties we may have because of our diverse weaknesses, other factors in life can weigh us down whether they be economic, social, political or personal. The final sentences of today’s Gospel passage are clearly an expansion of the sentiment on which the Lord’s Prayer is based.



The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

