

St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong



Daily Reflections

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

MONDAY 20 JUNE, 2022—DEBORAH A MEISTER

Monday of the 12 Week in Ordinary Time

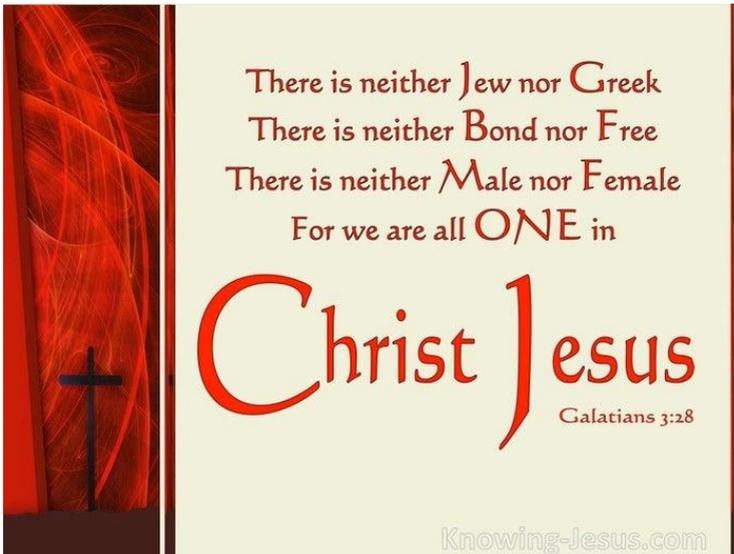
2 Kings 17:5-8 13-15a, Psalm 60:3-5, 12-13 Matthew 7:1-5

Bring the Light of Christ

Jesus said to his disciples: “Stop judging, that you may not be judged.”

Matthew 7:1

We have more ways of communicating today than in any other time in history. Sadly, the world is bursting with sound bites of judgement. A cacophony of accusations one minute, and resounding applause the next fills the airwaves and the internet. Too often it infects our conversations and thoughts. The wooden beams of judgement –prejudice, racism, false piety, pride and more—block the light of Christ. Even a tiny splinter in the eye must be acknowledged as our own imperfection. We can ask for forgiveness, remove our splinter and “stop Judging.” Our mission as disciples is to bring the light of Christ into the world, not to judge the world. The choice either to praise God in word and action or spread the infection of slander and negativity is ours. May we see ourselves and others with the eyes of Jesus, who sees in each of us our goodness and calls every person into communion with him.



TUESDAY 21 JUNE, 2022—SR MELANNIE SVOBODA SND

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga

2 Kings 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36. Psalm 48:2-4, 10-11 Matthew 7:6, 12-14

What You Really Want

How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life.

Matthew 7:14

When Jesus speaks about the “narrow gate” I get a little nervous. Going through a narrow gate requires discipline—not one of my favourite words. As a child, I equated discipline with denying myself candy during Lent, or doing chores I didn’t like, or being nice to my siblings. Gradually, I began to see discipline in a positive light—for two reasons. First, years ago I came across David Campbell’s classic definition of discipline as “remembering what you want.” I would add “really want.” If I had a dream or a long-term goal, discipline helps me to achieve that dream or goal. Second, the word discipline looks a lot like the word disciple. To be a disciple of Jesus is to have a dream for myself and the whole world—one that will be realised by following Jesus’ disciplined way of love, sacrifice and service.

Jesus, give me the grace to remember what I really want and to make daily choices to achieve that dream.



Maturing disciples
create habits of spiritual
disciplines.

WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE, 2022—PAT GOHN

Saints John Fisher and Thomas More.

2 Kings 22⁸⁻¹³, 23:1-3 Psalm 119:33-37, 40 Matthew 7:15-20

Turn Back to God

He had the entire contents of the book of the covenant that had been found in the temple of the Lord, read out to them...the king made a covenant before the Lord that they would follow him... 2 Kings 23:2-3

King Josiah's reign began at age 8 after his father's assassination. At the time, many in Judah had forgotten and forsaken the covenant with God. Paganism was widespread. As a young man, Josiah sponsored repairs to the temple, during which a book of the Law was found and shared with him. It was a turning point for the king. Josiah's encounter with the Word of God led to repentance—"he tore his garments" (verse 22:11).

Knowing his kingdom had strayed from the Law, he renewed the covenant and led Judah's spiritual renewal—restoring the Passover feast and more—while crushing idol worship and other abominations. Of Josiah it is said, "Before him there had been no king who turned to the Lord as he did, with his whole heart...nor did any king like him arise after him" (23:25).

How is God's Word impacting my life?



THURSDAY 23 JUNE 2022—MELANIE RIGNEY

Thursday of the 12th Week in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 24:8-17 Psalm 78:1-5, 8-9 John 14:23

Bring Light

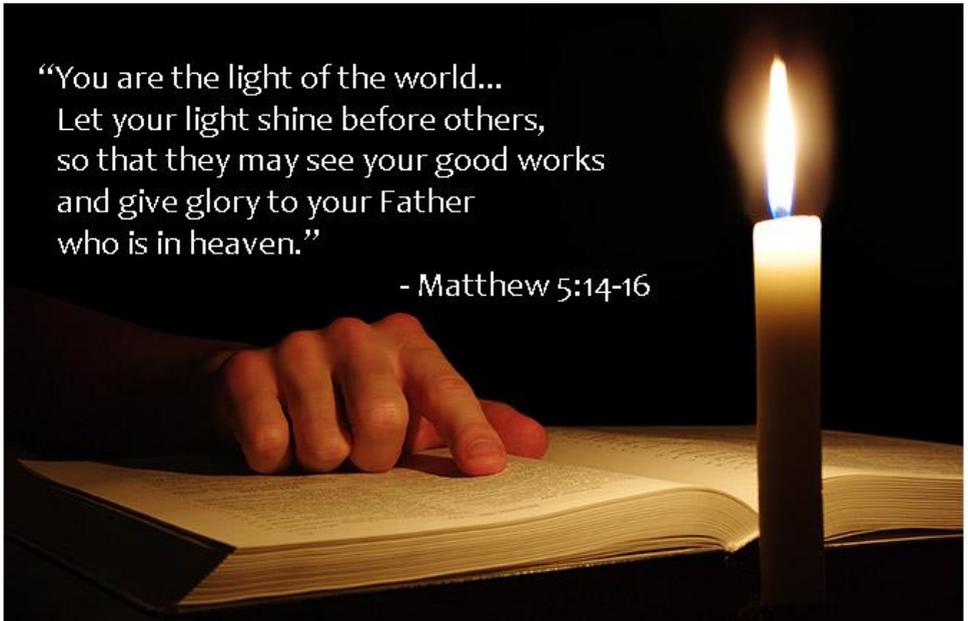
I will make you light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. Isaiah 49:6

I was doing my best to carry out my employer's new directives. There wasn't anything unethical or immoral about the changes, but one of my colleagues didn't agree with them and wasn't reluctant about sharing that disagreement with our team's contractors. The meetings, phone calls and emails grew increasingly contentious. I couldn't go to his boss or mine about the situation, so I started praying the Jesus prayer ("Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner") before any encounter. It helped me measure my words and refrain from returning fire with fire. After several months, the colleague departed. The project moved toward completion. One of the contractors sent me an apology after he read something I had written in *Living Faith*. In one of my most trying professional situations, Jesus had used me to bring light.

Jesus, give me the faith and courage to let your light shine through me.

"You are the light of the world...
Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father
who is in heaven."

- Matthew 5:14-16



FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2022—MSGR. STEPHEN ROSSETTI

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Ezekiel 34:11-16 Psalm 23:1-6 Romans 5:5b Luke 15:3-7

God's Mercy Greater Than Human Sin

...more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents...Luke 15:7

Having been a priest for many years, I now realise how important is today's feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Time and again, I sit with people who are overwhelmed by their sins. They cannot believe that God could forgive them. The feast of Jesus' merciful heart is desperately needed. All people need to know that his mercy is greater than any sin. There is no transgression that God will not forgive. We only need to approach the throne of God with sincere repentance.

In her famous work, *The Dialogue*, St. Catherine reported that the Lord said to her, "This last sin [of despair is] graver to me than all the other sins" because these souls "judge [its] misery greater than My mercy."

I do not know how better to get the word out about the merciful heart of Christ. Can you help with this? Perhaps there is someone you will meet today who desperately needs to hear of God's infinite mercy.



SATURDAY JUNE 2022—MARIA RUIZ SCAPERLANDA

The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lamentations 2:2, 10-14, 18-19 Psalm 74:1-7, 20-21 Luke 2:41-51

What's In My Heart

Pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord.

Lamentations 2:19

Mothering has been my most challenging and rewarding vocation. What I share as a mother with my four children, simply cannot be explained by DNA or human nurture. The spiritual connection defines and challenges me even now, in my grand mothering years.

I'm comforted and strengthened by Mother Mary. Like her, I held a newborn in my arms and pondered her future. I taught my child to pray and see God in the world. I delighted in her humour and corrected her behaviour. I watched her grow in stature and in wisdom. And, also like Mary, I lost her in a large crowd.

Thankfully, rather than three days later, I found her after 15 frantic and frightful minutes.

She who not only “kept all these things in her heart,” also poured out prayerfully the contents of her heart in the presence of the Lord. When life's difficult moments threaten to steal my peace of heart, I turn to Mother Mary for comfort example and advice



The Nativity of Saint John the baptist

