

St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong

Monday 23rd June 2025

Saturday 28th June 2025



Daily Reflections

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

MONDAY 23RD JUNE 2025

12th week in Ordinary Time

Genesis 12: 1-9, Psalm 32: 12-13, 18-20, 22. R. V. 12, Matthew 7: 1-5.

Reflections: “Do not judge and you will not be judged”...

The passages in Matthew, Chapters 5-7—the Sermon on the Mount—can be described as a compendium of the Christian life. Today we read the first of a series of teachings that are perennially valid. The image of the plank and the splinter cuts right through our self-satisfaction about our opinions, our values and our judgements. To own up to our own failures is probably easier than daring to confront our neighbour about what we believe to be his or her mistakes. We can imagine how hard that would have been among Jesus’ closet followers and for the community for whom this Gospel was written. The story of Abraham’s call in today’s first reading begins a series on the history of the patriarchs that we will read over the next three weeks. They reveal the presence of God’s guiding hand in all the vagaries of human success and failure from which we too can learn much.

The command to judge not is not a requirement to be blind, but rather a plea to be generous. Jesus does not tell us to cease to be men... but to renounce the presumptuous ambition to be God.

— *John Stott* —

Isaiah 49: 1-6, Psalm 138: 1-3, 13-15. R. v. 14, Acts 13:22-26, Luke 57-66, 80

John the Baptist does not seem to enjoy the same popularity and devotion given to many other saints. Maybe this is a result of the attempts by the gospel writers to ensure that he is seen as inferior to Jesus. There is a place, however, for the 'also rans' and his patronage can well be fruitful for many of us. For all that, there is no doubt that John's person and witness was highly important for God's plan of salvation. In pointing to Jesus as the chosen one he remains an example to those who stand back, called as we are to identify and indicate to others the presence of the risen Saviour. That is why today's first reading from one of the Servant poems in Isaiah is so fitting. Luke in the Gospel uses the same terms to describe the maturing of John as he does later for Jesus. As Jesus reminds us on a number of occasions, we can learn much from both the Suffering Servant and St John the Baptist.



WEDNESDAY 25TH JUNE 2025

12th Week in Ordinary Time

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18, Psalm 104: 1-4, 6-9, R. v. 8,

Matthew 7: 15-20

Reflection: 'just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions...

How do we ever know who are the false prophets among us today? And what does the term 'false prophet' really mean for us? These are the questions today's Gospel passage evoke. Jesus' agricultural images help to a point, but we know that 'good' people can give bad example and that sometimes from supposed 'bad' individuals there emerges something of great value and worthy of imitation. There are so many discordant voices and attractions in our society and in our world today that finding the truth, the right response, is not always easy. We rely on the incisive directions of the Word of God to guide us, as Jesus did when confronting the attractive proposal of Satan in the desert. Like Abram we put our faith in the Lord who remembers his promises forever. Confronted with the unthinkable predicament of having no heir, he was offered something unimaginable. Can we dare to have the same hope for whatever our needs may be?



THURSDAY 26TH JUNE 2025

12th Week in Ordinary Time

Genesis 16: 1-12, 15-16, Psalm 105: 1-5, R. v. 1, Matthew 7: 21-19

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

As with each of the five collections of Jesus' teachings in Matthew's Gospel, our readings from the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7) end with formula that 'Jesus had finished what he wanted to say'. In Matthew's plan these collections of teachings constitute the new Law—a law of the heart—in contrast to be the original Mosaic Law or Torah. Here the superior authority of Jesus is emphasised. His image of the two houses invites us to examine closely the foundation on which our live and ideals are built. Jesus insists that his words should be the sole foundation for our lives. How, therefore, can we find the right materials to construct a house founded on that solid rock? We could always begin with a plan for regular reading and reflection on the Word of God in the Scriptures, giving special attention to the four Gospels.



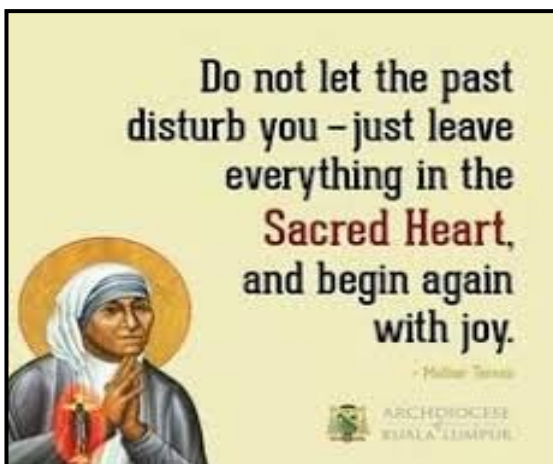
FRIDAY 27TH JUNE 2025
12th Week in Ordinary Time

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, Psalm 22. R.v.1, Romans 5: 5-11, Luke 15: 3-7.

Reflection. The Lord is my Shepherd there is nothing I shall want.

The dominant theme for the celebration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus this year is Jesus' shepherding role. We are reminded of another scene in the Gospel (Mark 6.30-34) when Jesus was moved with compassion for the crowds who had flocked to him because they were 'like sheep without a shepherd'. More intimate is the love of Jesus for 'his own', namely the group of select disciples he had gathered around him. They shared his daily life, his personal struggles and the opposition he faced. They were part of the tragic events of his suffering and execution even if they did not understand and fled. As we honour the heart of Jesus we are caught up in that same community of care and love and so, as Paul reminds us, are filled with joyful trust for we have been reconciled by the saving death of Jesus, who gave himself up for those he loved.



SATURDAY 28th JUNE 2025

12th Week in Ordinary time

Isaiah 61: 9-11, Psalm: 1 Samuel 2: 4-8. R. cf. v. 1, Luke 2: 41-51.

Reflection: My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour

For the early Christian community and for us, Mary, the mother of Jesus, stands out as the one who, though immersed in the down-to-earth reality of a human story, can search for its deeper meaning and purpose. Having said 'Yes' to the mysterious message of the angel she is learning the implications of her acceptance to be the 'servant of the Lord'. In this story she appears as a devoted wife and mother observing the demands of the Law. As her Son grew to maturity she must have wondered, on many occasions, what the future would hold for them. We too often wonder about the implications of accepting to learn more about Jesus and developing a truly personal relationship with him. Sometimes the most challenging question is how these fits into the everyday realities, the family pressures, work stresses, relationships and the varied involvements of our lives. We look to Mary's example and intercession to help us find the right balance.



Saints Peter and Paul Apostles

