

# St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong



## Daily Reflections

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

**MONDAY 27 JUNE 2022—STEVE PABLE**

*Monday of the 13<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time*

*Amos 2:6-10, 13-16 Psalm 49:16-23 Matthew 8:18-22*

## **Faith Forward**

*To your mouth you give free rein for evil, you harness your tongue to deceit.*

Psalm 50:19

It can be difficult to hear judgment pronounced on our behaviour especially the catalogue of offenses like those listed in today's Old Testament readings.

We may become discouraged when we consider the accuracy of this assessment in every generation and in our own hearts. Certainly Cyril of Alexandria faced hostility and depravity in his day, just as we do. Yet he kept focus on God's saving plan for humanity, emphasizing the truth of Mary's role as *Theotokos*, or God-bearer. It may seem an obscure bit of teaching, yet it has profound implications for our own faith experience.

For as we live our baptism, as we hear God's Word and especially as we receive the Eucharist we too become "God-bearers." We recognize our need for mercy in the face of our failings, yet the Lord invites us to participate in the salvation of the world. Let us look not to our past, but to all that God wants to accomplish in and through us.

At the Third Ecumenical council, the Council of Ephesus, it was decided that it was entirely appropriate to refer to Mary as the Theotokos, a Greek word which can be translated as "God bearer" or "Mother of God." This was to emphasize that Mary's child, Jesus Christ, was in fact God. She is often referred to as "Theotokos" in Eastern Orthodox hymns.



**TUESDAY 28 JUNE 2022—MARY MARROCCO**

*Saint Irenaeus*

*Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12 Psalm 5:5-8 Matthew 8:23-27*

## **God's Power Revealed**

*Then he got up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm. The men were amazed and said, "What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?" Matthew 8:26-27*

Jesus shows us God's power over all created things: they obey him, not the other way around. In a similar sense, the Church is the sacrament of Christ—the mystery by which the infinite God is truly present in finite, tangible reality. The Church's sacraments assure us of God-with-us in time and space, where God gives us the gift of himself.

When the storm arose, Jesus exercised his power to protect the disciples and reveal himself to them. In the Church's sacramental life, Jesus exercises his power to protect us and reveal himself to us.

Who could this God be, who brings his greatness to meet our smallness, coming in the ordinariness of bread and wine, transforming them that we might be transformed into his likeness?

being transformed



**WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2022—STEVE GIVENS**

*Saints Peter and Paul*

*Acts 12:1-11 Psalm 33:2-9 Matthew 16:13-19*

## **Who Is Jesus to You?**

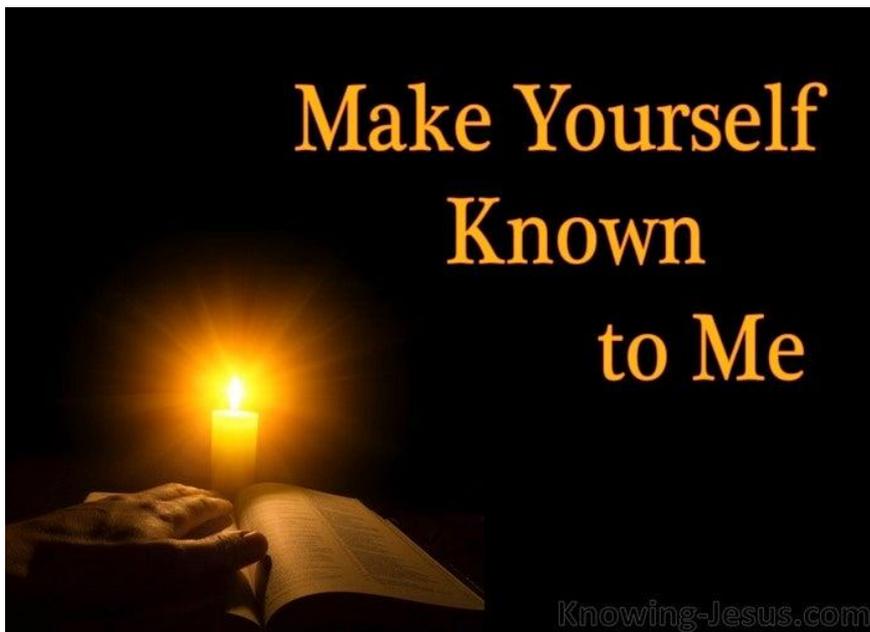
*He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”*

Matthew 16:15

When we meet someone for the first time, we most often ask, “What do you do?” That question usually means, “Tell me, where you go to work every day. Tell me what you call yourself.” There is no harm in such conversation, but it is a shallow way to measure the worth and purpose of another person, of course.

When Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do you say I am?” he is really asking them to look deep and figure so much more than fishermen, tax collectors and even disciples. They are loved by the Diving Lover. They are known by name and story. As are we all. That’s who we are, *Known*.

*Jesus, may I find my true identity in you.*



**THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2022—CLAIRE MCGARRY**

*Thursday of the 13<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time*

*Amos 7:10-17 Psalm 18:8-11*

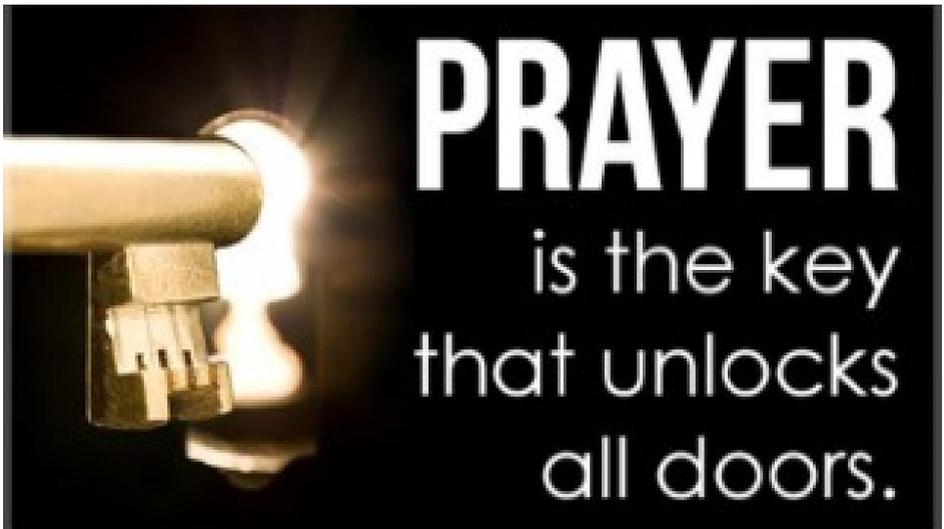
*Matthew 9:1-8*

## **Prayer Warriors**

*And there people brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher,  
“Courage, child, your sins are forgiven.”*

It began years ago with one simple prayer request via email. Someone my mom knew was struggling and needed prayers. The handful of us who received the email prayed this person through. Since then, my mother's Prayer Warrior list has grown. The group is now large and active. We are constantly praying for someone, and the results are astounding. When the faithful join forces and petition God on someone's behalf, the power is immense. That's what happened with the paralytic in Matthew 9. It was the faith of the people who brought him on a stretcher that inspired Jesus to heal him. When circumstances paralyse us, it is the faith and prayers of other believers that lift us up, bring us to God and move his heart to heal ours.

*Compassionate Christ, increase my faith so my prayers for others aid in their healing.*



**FRIDAY 1 JULY 2022—KARLA MANTERNACH**

*Friday of the 13<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time*

*Amos 8:4-6, 9-12 Psalm 119:2, 10,20, 30, 40, 131 Matthew 9:9-13*

## **Sinners Wanted**

*Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do...I did not come to call the righteous but sinners. Matthew 9:12-13*

I grew up as a self-righteous Catholic. I was sure Catholics were the only ones who knew right from wrong or who cared more about being good than being popular. To put it bluntly, I thought we were better than everyone else and that any disagreement was a result of others' moral laziness. I had yet to hear and respond to the call to humility that comes through so clearly in today's passage. Nor did I detect how it reverberates throughout the Gospels. Sometimes, I still need to remind myself that I am a sinner like everyone else—something my recurring pride makes obvious!

God doesn't like me because I'm Catholic. I am one of the sick in need of the physician. My role as a disciple is to humbly follow the Lord, to ask for healing and to let others do the same.

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*



**SATURDAY 2 JULY, 2022—SR JOYCE RUPP, OSM**

*Saturday of the 13 Week in Ordinary Time*

*Amos 9:11-15 Psalm 85:9-14 Matthew 9:14-17*

## **An Extraordinary Relationship**

*Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss.* Psalm 85:11

When someone commences to “speak the truth” to another, their presentation of “the truth” can sometimes slide into defensive self-righteousness, further away from kindness rather than closer to it. (Who of us does not want to be right when it comes to a difference of opinion or disagreement?) Nor do justice and peace quickly meet and unite with each other. Peace waits in the far distance while the work of justice goes on. Encouraging and supporting justice requires courage and steady determination, even going so far as to give one’s life for a just cause. So when justice and peace kiss, the intimate relationship between the two is remarkable. This is the kind of hope that Psalm 85 presents. It is the promise of restored relationships, offered by God not only to people of the psalmist’s time, but to our time. It will only happen, however, if we give ourselves wholeheartedly to the process.



When you see this, your heart shall rejoice and  
your bodies flourish like the grass

Isaiah 66:14

