

St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong



Daily Reflections

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

MONDAY 16 MAY 2022—KRISTIN ARMSTRONG

Monday of the 5th Week of Easter

Acts 14:5-18 Psalm 115:1-4, 15-16 John 14:21-26

An Invitation to the Holy Spirit

*The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name—
he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.*

John 14:26

The presence of the Holy Spirit has become increasingly personal to me. I am learning to sense when I am living, loving and working in alignment with the Holy Spirit or attempting to go on my own. The aligned way feels like empowerment, clarity and confidence. The other way feels scattered, uncertain and draining.

Before I work each morning, I light a candle on my desk as a symbol of my quiet invitation and invocation of the Holy Spirit. I ask for the Spirit to fill me, to be present in every conversation and connection with my clients, in words I speak or write. In this way, I become a conduit for a power greater than myself. At day's end, I blow out the candle, giving thanks for the ability to use my gifts in higher service. And I ask the Holy Spirit to take anything from me that is not mine to carry, leaving the outcomes in God's hands.



TUESDAY 17 MAY 2022—DEBORAH A. MEISTER

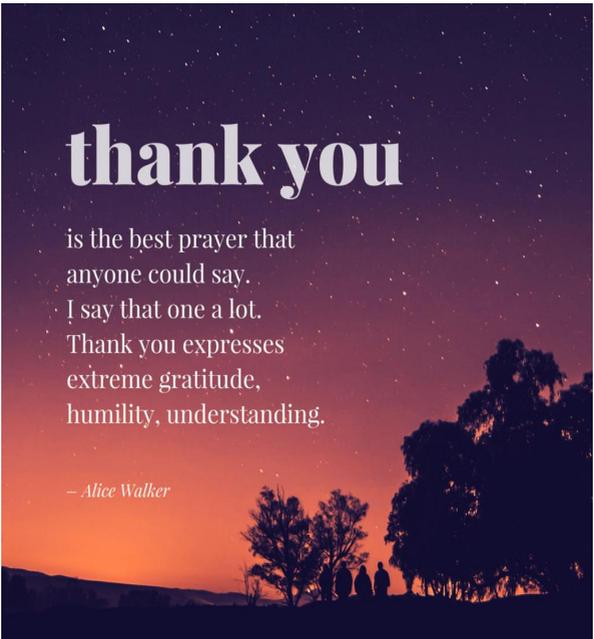
Tuesday of the 5th Week of Easter

Acts 14:19-28 Psalm 145:10-13, 21 John 14:27-31a

A Prayer of Thanks giving

...they called the Church together and reported what God had done with them...Acts 14:27

In the church parking lot one Sunday, I overheard a child arguing with his parents. “I don’t want to go to church,” he wailed. “It’s boring.” I wondered if the father would drag the child kicking and screaming into church. The father simply said, “I’m going in to say thank you. God has given us so many wonderful things that aren’t boring,” and he began to list them. The child soon smiled, took his father’s hand, and together they walked into the church. That lesson reminded me that we are the Church, called together to tell each other—by our presence—what God has been doing with us in our lives and how grateful we are to be loved by God. We call this Eucharist (thanksgiving). From beginning to end, the Mass is a prayer of thanksgiving.

The image features a quote by Alice Walker set against a background of a sunset or sunrise over a landscape with trees and hills. The sky is a mix of deep purple, blue, and orange, with stars visible in the upper portion. The text is white and centered. At the bottom, the silhouette of a person standing on a hill is visible.

thank you

is the best prayer that
anyone could say.
I say that one a lot.
Thank you expresses
extreme gratitude,
humility, understanding.

— Alice Walker

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2022—FR JAMES MCKARNS

Wednesday of the 5th Week of Easter

Acts 15:1-6 Psalm 122:1-5 John 15:1-8

Jerusalem

Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity. Psalm 122:3

There is no city in the world that holds such a profound spiritual meaning as Jerusalem. It is mentioned almost 800 times in the Bible, as a sacred rendezvous between God and people. As Christians, we often pause to ponder the meaning of this city. It is where Jesus kissed the earth with his blessed feet, especially on that passion-filled day at the crossroads of history, between time and eternity...that secret known ever after as the Via Dolorosa.

Within Jerusalem, built on a mountain between the river and the sea, the three Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam all claim sacred sites within this ancient city. Psalm 122 refers to Jerusalem as a place of unity. Its name means a city of peace. Yet, today, as for years, Jerusalem continues to be divided by numerous clashes. We pray that this city, which is part of our spiritual heritage, will one day fulfil its dream for unity and peace.



THURSDAY 19 MAY 2022—PATRICIA LIVINGSTON

Thursday of the 5th Week of Easter.

Acts 15:7-21 Psalm 96:1-3, 10 John 15:9-11

Complete Joy

Jesus said to his disciples: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love...I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete.” John 15:9, 11

We often struggle to find words to express our love. When writing texts or emails, we add emoji’s with hearts. These words of Jesus to his disciples and passed on to us—that he loves us as the Father loves him—fills me with awe. We are loved with that incredibly deep personal love! A very important focus of our spirituality is awareness of that love. We’re told to “remain in” that love, to let ourselves realise we keep living in that love. It can help to pause and take a deep breath, remembering that God’s Love is as close to us as our breath. Most of all, we physically remain in that love when we receive communion; Jesus’ Real Presence in the Eucharist comes to us that our “joy might be complete.”

Dear Jesus, we have such joy in your love.



FRIDAY 20 MAY 2022— SR. CHRIS KOELLHOFFER, I.H.M.

Friday of the 5th Week of Easter

Acts 15:22-31 Psalm 57:8-10, 12 John 15:12-17

Readiness of Heart

Awake, O my soul; awake, lyre and harp! I will wake the dawn.

Psalm 57:9

On the surface, the desire to wake the dawn sounds as if it could be the attitude of a morning person, up early and ready for movement. Might it also be the prayer of a person who lives in a state of readiness, one who cultivates attentiveness to the present moment? To wake the dawn implies an openness to whatever the day may bring, starting with the soul's gratitude for the rising sun and carrying gratefulness into the remainder of the day, beyond the setting sun, the advent of darkness and the stillness of night.

The psalmist's intention is to awaken not only the soul but also the lyre and the harp. So how shall we live with awareness of the gift of beauty in our wounded world? How shall we make music as we move our prayer into acts of love and compassion?

Holy One, wake the dawn in me!



SATURDAY 21 MAY 2022—MARÍA RUIZ SCAPERLANDA

Saturday of the 5th Week of Easter

Acts 16:1-10 Psalm 100:1-3, 5 John 15:18-21

Confident Faith

...prevented by the Holy Spirit...Acts 16:6

Years ago, I watched a movie that deeply impacted my faith life—although I wouldn't recommend it as high-quality! A woman is traumatised when her husband suddenly disappears. But her shock quickly turns to scorn when she assumes that he has abandoned her for another woman. All the events that follow unfold from that erroneous premise, and her life—and the life of her family—becomes unrecognisable. A year later, she discovers that her husband has gone on a walk, fallen in a deep hole and died. No foul play. No shameful scheme. Yet how she interpreted his disappearance had irreversibly distorted her life.

The early Church described in Acts was single—minded in its focus to preach the message, and they “grew stronger in faith and increased in number” (verse 5). Most importantly, rather than interpreting difficult situations as bad luck or misfortune, no matter what the circumstances, they confidently discerned every situation as the Spirit of God leading them. What if I assumed my life's details were led by the Holy Spirit?



 Faith 

IT'S ALL ABOUT

Believing,

YOU DON'T KNOW

HOW IT WILL HAPPEN.

BUT YOU KNOW IT

WILL.