

St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong

Monday 4th November 2024

Saturday 9th November 2024



Daily Reflections

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

MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2024

31st week in Ordinary Time

Phillipians 2: 1-4, Psalm 130,

Reflections: In you , Lord, I have found my peace.

From St Paul's words to the Christian community of Philippi in today's first reading, we can deduce that there were divisions and competition in this community, and that some members felt themselves superior to others. These attitudes and behaviours were seriously damaging to the community. Of Course, their situation was not unique. Divisions and struggles in one form or another affect all Christian communities. We are not communities of the perfect, but communities striving each day to live a little better the ideals proposed by Jesus. St Pauls advice about the path towards this goal – 'always consider the other person better than yourself' – is counter-cultural today where the rights of the individual are often seen as paramount. Yet it is the only path forward. Such humble attitudes will find expression in the welcome we give to the most needy. Try this day to think of others as better than yourself. Observe what effect it has – on others and on yourself.



TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2024

31ST Week in Ordinary Time

Phillipians 2: 5-11, Psalm 21: 26-32, R. v. 26 , Luke 14: 15-24

Reflection. God's invitation is from the heart.

Jesus came among us to invite us all to the feast of the kingdom of God. We may still be awaiting the full realisation on the kingdom, but the invitations have already been issued. We can perhaps compare this with receiving an invitation to a wedding or some other important event. We are honoured by being invited and we can look forward to the event. But sometimes the attachments we have make it difficult for us to accept the invitation. The poor and the needy, who have no land or animals in which to find comfort, can readily accept the invitation. By not clinging to his equality with God but emptying himself to assume the condition of a slave, Jesus models the 'emptiness' that enables us to accept the invitation to the feast in the kingdom, where we too will be honoured by God. Today we might ask: what attachments are preventing me from fully accepting the invitation to the feast in the kingdom.



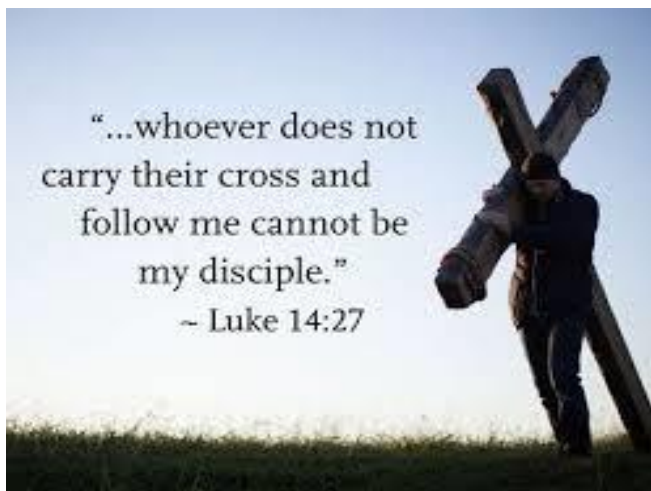
WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2024

31st Week in Ordinary Time

Phillipians 2: 12-18, Psalm 26: 1, 4, 13-14. R. v. 1,

Reflection: The Lord is my light and my salvation

At first glance, the questions Jesus asks in today's Gospel appear to be rhetorical. Would someone start building a house if they lacked the funds to complete it? Would a king with 10,000 soldiers go to war against another king with 20,000? The obvious answer both questions is 'no'. But is that what Jesus is proposing? I think of the founder of my religious congregation, Blessed James Alberione, who during his life embarked on the building of four great churches before having the funds to complete them. It was struggle but, in the end, all four churches were built and paid for. And a king with an army half the size of another king's army can explore strategies other than sheer force of numbers to achieve victory. Perhaps Jesus is warning us that we will face many struggles as we live out the Christian life. Do we have the strategies, and most especially the faith in him, to continue the journey of discipleship in circumstances that sometimes seem overwhelming?



“...whoever does not
carry their cross and
follow me cannot be
my disciple.”
~ Luke 14:27

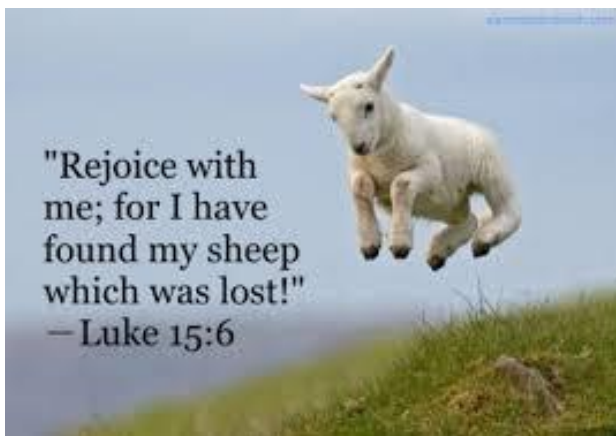
THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2024

31st Week in Ordinary Time

Phillipians 3: 3-8, Psalm 104: 2-7, R. v. 3,

Reflection. The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want

St Paul was a Pharisee of the highest order who observed the Law scrupulously and was committed to rounding up and punishing all the followers of the Way (Christians). But on the road to Damascus the risen Christ 'found' him. Though he didn't realise it at the time, Paul, for all his scrupulosity, was a 'lost sheep' for whom the Good Shepherd was searching. On the Damascus Road, the Shepherd found Paul and Paul found the Shepherd. In reflection on that moment, Paul came to realise that 'nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord'. Most of us will not have had such a dramatic experience of the Good shepherd finding us. But hopefully, in reflection on our lives, we can come to recognise how important we are to the Good Shepherd, who searches for us, finds us and carries us home on his shoulders. May this experience inspire us to be good shepherds for others.



FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2024

31ST Week in Ordinary Time

Phillipians 3: 17---4:1, Psalm 121:1-5, R. v. 1,

Reflection. Come Lord Jesus

Jesus' commendation of the unjust steward who, on the surface, did wrong to benefit himself, is puzzling. The best explanation I've read is that the steward was merely deducting his commission from the amounts owed to the rich man, so the rich man was not being cheated of funds due to him. But perhaps what Jesus wants us to focus on is not the evil behaviour of the unjust steward but his astuteness in planning for the future. We too need to live in the present with an eye to the future and seek to avoid actions that may have some short-term benefit but in the long run bring grief to ourselves and others. We should remember with St Paul that' our homeland is in heaven and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. ... So then, dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord.'



SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2024

31st Week in Ordinary Time

***Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12, Psalm 45: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9, R.v. 5,
1 Corinthians 3: 9-11, 16-17,***

Reflection ... they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome. It is the oldest 'legal' church building in Europe, having been established in the reign of Constantine. Before the Edict of Constantine in 313 CE, Christianity was illegal in the Roman Empire, though tolerated in many places, and its church buildings had no official status. The Lateran Basilica is the cathedral church of the Diocese of Rome and serves as the seat of the bishop of Rome, the Pope. It is called St John Lateran after its two patron saints, St John the Apostle and St John the Baptist, and the Laterani family who owned the land on which it was built. It is the mother church of Catholics. By celebrating its dedication today, we remember our roots and that we are part of a large family under the pastoral care of our Pope, for whom we pray in a special way on this day.



Praise the Lord
my Soul

32nd

Sunday

In

Ordinary

Time