

Into the Deep

Issue 16

Newsletter of the Confraternity of St Michael, Gippsland

January 2004

Answer to Vocations Crisis

The answer to the crisis of vocations to the consecrated life lies in the *holiness* of consecrated persons and in the *prayer* of the whole Church, says John Paul II.

In a message for the 61st World Day of Prayer for Vocations the Pope said: "The force of the witness of those who have received the call depends on their holiness," which should be able "to attract other persons, impelling them to entrust their life to Christ."

"This is the way of opposing the decrease of vocations to the consecrated life, which threatens the existence of many apostolic works, especially in mission countries," the Pope said in the message published by the Vatican press office.

Prayer is the second key to overcoming the lack of consecrated persons, the Holy Father stated. "Many of the sick in the world join their sufferings to the cross of Jesus to implore for holy vocations," he observed.

Thus, the Pope called "all Christian communities to be genuine schools of prayer, where prayers are offered so that labourers will not be lacking in the vast apostolic field."

He added that the Church must offer constant spiritual care to those whom God has already called so that they will "be faithful to their vocation and attain the highest possible degree of evangelical perfection."

The papal message concludes with a prayer to God, through the intercession of Mary, so that vocations will never be lacking in the Church.

The Pope also prays that the Lord will help those who have received the call to follow him, so that they will "respond with joy to the wonderful mission that you entrust to them for the good of your people and of all human beings."

Zenit News www.zenit.org

The Meaning of Christmas?

"We continue to make connections; we open up dialogue and we witness to a solidarity, which is the meaning of Christmas."

Bishop Jeremiah Coffey, in Catholic Life December 2003

We Listen At the Crib

"In the vulnerable and weak newborn babe who cries in the arms of Mary, *"the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men"* (Tit 2:11). Let us pause in silence and worship!

O Holy Night, so long awaited, which has united God and man for ever! You rekindle our hope. You fill us with ecstatic wonder. You assure us of the triumph of love over hatred, of life over death.

For this reason we remain absorbed in prayer.

In the luminous silence of your Nativity, you, Emmanuel, continue to speak to us. And we are ready to listen to you. Amen!"

Pope John Paul II, Midnight Mass homily, Christmas 2003

Faithful Catholics Unite

Congratulations on the start of your website. Your comment that the agitators have been active for some time while the faithful have waited with patience, is correct.

The state of Victoria alone, has increasing numbers of faithful Catholics loyal to the Vatican and the pope. What is needed now is some method of uniting these people, so they can realise that they are not small groups. Once united they can be very strong in demanding a true Catholic education for their children. Such a gathering should be Eucharistic and prayerful, followed by discussion.

I will post your site on my website. May God bless your work.

William Campbell, Geelong

Stand Up and Be Counted!

Into the Deep is looking for a contact person in each parish of the diocese. This person would be primarily responsible for making copies of Into the Deep and distributing them in that area at the beginning of each month. They will also be asked to report on happenings in their area and to encourage those with concerns to write them down.

Contact us at stoneswillshout@yahoo.com.au or write to us at PO Box 446, Traralgon 3844 if you are willing to help.

Peace And Goodwill To All Men

Christmas has passed again. We have remembered the birth of our Lord and Saviour who was born for us. We have packed away our crib for another year.

Each year we will again remember and celebrate this joyful season and put up our crib and be reminded of his birth and the goodwill we feel towards our fellow man.

We are also reminded at Easter time that Jesus died for us (you and me) to pay for our sins even though he did no wrong himself. We will never forget, for Easter will always help us to remember the injustice of it all.

Injustice never goes away. You can let time pass, or you can grow grass over it and you can pretend that all is well and go on with living, but injustice will always show up. It will continue to haunt our conscience and needs to be rooted out or it will continue to appear as a thorn or discomfort, guilty feeling or pain.

So let us make a new start and clear away or root out this injustice to allow all of us together to build a better and stronger parish in Morwell. Please God let it be done and bring back Father John Speekman.

But of course it will take peace and goodwill from all men.

Bert Vanderzalm, Morwell

Abortion Promoted in Schools

In January 2002, the CEO of our Catholic Education Office decided to bring our Catholic schools into what he perceives to be the "real world".

He judged it incumbent on him "to ensure that students have the basic knowledge and skills to deal with [this] real world."

He also judged that the students should be taught these skills though they are "not congruent with current Catholic teaching".

Among these skills, taught by means of information sheets distributed by the Catholic Education Office to the Diocesan Catholic schools are those necessary for successful contraception/abortion by means of the "morning-after" pill. How to take it, how it works, how to acquire it without their parents' knowledge.

Whether or not our bishop supports this attempt to bring his Catholic schoolgirls into the "real world" I do not know, for as we all do know, not all bishops now bother to reply to troubled members of their flock. Nor do they apparently share the concern of those who fear that, in the not too distant future, the Church will again find itself being sued, in this case by women who ascribe their sterility to their abortions from the age of fifteen, and hold their Catholic schools responsible – which will ultimately be the bishops, as in the paedophile scandals.

Molly Brennan, Bendigo

Two years later, we wonder what happened? Ed.

'Journey of Love' Seminar

Journey of Love was the title of the Parish Cells of Evangelisation seminar held at Cranbourne on 15 November 2003 and attended by approximately 70 members from many parts of Sale diocese.

The two principal speakers were Jeff Kleynjans, a 4th year student for the priesthood and Fr Andrew Wise, parish priest of Cranbourne. Their words spoke of the Nourishment we need for survival, and it is the Eucharist and Prayer that are so vital on this spiritual journey. A hunger for the Eucharist is a hunger for Jesus. Let's not move away from the frequent reception of the Eucharist and our commitment to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament where we have the opportunity to listen to Jesus, to have a conversation with God and then He will answer our prayers in His way in His time. Father Andrew spoke of using *Lectio Divina* as one very useful method of praying.

A trio of young people, aged 18 - 20 years, from Mill Park, a Cell parish in Melbourne provided us with delightful testimonies of what Parish Cells has done in their lives. Noting the change in her mother after joining Parish Cells and attending the Milan Seminar, Emily Reed wanted some of that happiness and joy and peace for herself. Though only 16 at the time, she joined a Cell and in true Parish Cell style, went on to evangelise Nagma Budhiraja who then brought Mandie Vido to Jesus. These three young women displayed the true spirit of Parish Cells - evangelising as they go.

The day was spiritually uplifting for all. To see the young people who have accepted the Cell way of life was a joy and a tribute to their commitment to the New Evangelisation.

Margaret Goss, Sale

Letters Back in Catholic Life

Congratulations to the Editor of Catholic Life for re-introducing letters to the editor. Many will be looking forward to contributing ideas on the future of the Church, education and other issues.

At least that is what we hope has happened! The December 2003 edition carried five letters expressing views on the liturgical change from Latin to English forty years ago.

On this occasion the letters were on a topic and by contributors chosen by the editor. Surely he would not be so arrogant as to expect readers to accept that he has the sole right to decide what subjects and which contributors may be permitted to comment? Or would he?

P. O'Brien, Sale

INTERESTING PARISH NOTICES:

[SALE] “Sacramental News”

To all parishioners,

I would like to announce that I am resigning my position as Sacramental Co-ordinator, effective as of this Sunday December 14th. The last 2 years have been a busy, creative, challenging journey that I will always be grateful for. I have been privileged to work with wonderful people, and I will not forget those who have supported me so much.

I leave disappointed in the gossip, innuendo and petty jealousies that have made working in recent months very difficult. To build up is harder than to destroy, and I hope that one day “building up” will be the story of the Parish of Sale.

I leave to give more time to my family, who have missed out over the last 2 years. My husband and I will continue to work with the Avanti team who have given us so much for nearly 3 years.

I would like to thank Fr Mark for his constant support and vision. I thank him for persevering as my employer and a family friend even though it has been at some personal cost. I wish him all the best in the future.

Maria Haggett – Sacramental Co-ordinator

Ed’s Note:

It is interesting that Ms Haggett believes that ‘building up’ can and must happen regardless of the foundations on which we build.

[MORWELL] “Gratitude”

It is a worldwide tradition for a Bishop – a “prince of the church” – to be given a royal reception on the occasion of his attendance at major official celebrations. Last weekend our bishop, the Most Reverend Jeremiah J. Coffey D.D. visited Morwell, offered 3 Masses for us and conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 32 children.

As a token of our esteem and appreciation he was presented with a cheque for \$1000 from the presbytery account. This gift was presented with the compliments of all grateful parishioners especially the Confirmation children, their families and friends.

Before returning to the Cathedral City of Sale he was wined and dined by Italian-speaking members of our Parish community. He was also given many greetings from individuals for a Holy Christmas and Happy New Year.

We thank the School Principals, RE Co-ordinators, teachers, choir, musicians and all who contributed toward the general atmosphere of celebration in our Parish.

[Fr Tom Cleary]

Ed’s Note:

Is Fr Cleary trying too hard to make a point, or is he seeking favour with the Bishop? And Into the Deep has been informed that there is no ‘presbytery account’ at Morwell.

“Joint Statement to the Parish of Sale”

I, Jeremiah Coffey, Bishop of Sale and Parish Priest of the Cathedral Parish, and I, Sister Elizabeth Dodds rsc, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity of Australia, wish to make a joint statement.

Differences have arisen in understanding the contractual arrangements between Fr Mark Godridge and Sr Virginia Mahony.

We have come to some decisions and it is important that you know:

- Sr Virginia Mahony is concluding her ministry in the Parish of Sale on 31 December 2003. We are grateful for all she has given during her time in Sale. We acknowledge her gifts, creativity, hospitality and pastoral care, valued by so many parishioners.
- Fr Mark Godridge, Administrator of the Cathedral has requested and will be transferred to another parish when pastoral changes in the Diocese are announced in January 2004. We are grateful to Fr Mark for his work especially among youth, particularly with the Avanti group and schools in the parish.

We are also grateful for his promotion of Diocesan policy with regard to the partnership involved in the Sacraments of Initiation.

I, Jeremiah, and I, Elizabeth, join in prayer that God’s love and peace will be in the hearts of all during these days of change.

[Signed, Jeremiah Coffey and Sr Elizabeth Dodds]

Ed’s note: The difference in understanding the contract was that Fr Mark sacked Sr Virginia.

Fr Mark’s request to now move, is curious, if we are to believe he has done such great work there. ITD wonders if it has more to do with his employment of invalidly married staff, and his sacking of two staff, one leading to court action and the other leading to the involvement of the Congregational Leader. Fr Speekman did not come close to such controversy, and ‘had’ to be removed by Decree. Fr Mark can neatly request a transfer and leave the confusion behind, with the praises of the Bishop for his work.

Confession Not That Important

Commenting on the change from Latin to English 40 years ago, Fr John O'Kelly of Bairnsdale, wrote in December's Catholic Life: "I will never forget my excitement the first time I gave absolution in English, God's power at work in our lives, forgiving and healing. Little did I realise how the practice of Confession, newly termed Reconciliation, would fall away. And yet, is this a tragedy?"

Yes, it is a tragedy, Father! And the tragedy is that we have, by neglect of Bishops and Priests, forgotten that Confession has two parts.

The first is the comforting fact that through this Sacrament our sins are forgiven. The second is that we gain the graces necessary for us to resist repeating these sins and others when we are tempted by the devil.

The tragedy is that those who no longer avail themselves of this Sacrament do not receive these graces. Many committed Catholics believe that failure to take advantage of this consoling Sacrament is often the first step on the road to losing the faith. And that is a real tragedy, Father!

P.O'Brien, Sale

Glass Chalice

Q: May a celebrant at Mass use a glass chalice when consecrating the wine?

A: The new General Instruction on the Roman Missal (GIRM) states clearly (no. 328): "Sacred vessels are to be made from precious metal."

Liturgical law, however, allows the bishops' conference to propose other esteemed materials for use in sacred vessels, "provided that such materials are suited to sacred use and do not easily break or deteriorate."

No. 332 gives some leeway to artistic taste with respect to the outward form of the sacred vessels, "provided each vessel is suited to the intended liturgical use and is clearly distinguishable from those intended for everyday use."

Glass is not widely regarded as a precious material; it generally seems more like a household product. Some cut crystals, however, especially if artistically and uniquely fashioned with liturgical motifs, might pass the quality test. It is certainly not porous and does not easily deteriorate. But most glass is easily breakable.

On the basis of these considerations I would say that in most cases glass is unsuitable material for use as a chalice, but the latitude provided in liturgical law does not allow for an outright prohibition.

Answered by Fr Edward McNamara, professor of liturgy at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical Athenaeum. www.zenit.org

Moral Indignation is Needed

"Christian love bears all evil, but it does not tolerate it. It does penance for the sins of others, but it is not broad-minded about sin.

The cry for tolerance never induces it to quench its hatred of the evil philosophies that have entered into contest with the Truth.

It forgives the sinner, and it hates the sin; it is unmerciful to the error in his mind.

The sinner it will always take back into the bosom of the Mystical Body; but his lie will never be taken into the treasury of His Wisdom.

Real love involves real hatred; whoever has lost the power of moral indignation and the urge to drive the buyers and sellers from the temples has also lost a living, fervent love of Truth.

Charity then, is not a mild philosophy of 'live and let live'; it is not a species of sloppy sentiment.

Charity is the infusion of the Spirit of God, which makes us love the beautiful and hate the morally ugly."

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Eucharistic Congress for Youth

Adore 2004, a Eucharistic Congress for young people aged 13-30+ years, will be held at the Victory Function Room of Melbourne's Telstra Dome, Docklands, from 22-25 January 2004.

Adore 2004 is organised by the Youth Sector of the Alliance of the Holy Family International. Its aim is to sanctify families and young people through prayer, rosary, confession, adoration and Communion. Last year's Adore 2003 was held in Omaha, Nebraska.

The congress and its program has the approval of Archbishop Denis Hart. Archbishop Hart will celebrate Mass at the opening of Adore 2004 on 22 January, and this will be followed by a play 'The Passion' and Eucharistic Adoration.

There will be talks on Eucharistic themes from Msgr Peter Elliott, Robert Haddad (who works with the Sydney University Catholic Chaplaincy), Fr Peter Joseph and several visiting US speakers.

On the Saturday there will be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament from Telstra Dome to St Patrick's Cathedral, followed by Benediction. Everyone is welcome to attend this, even if not attending the Congress. Assemble at Telstra Dome at 7.15pm.

For further information on Adore 2004, contact Mary Help of Christians Crusade: mhccrusade@aol.com, visit www.mhccrusade.com or phone (03) 9266 2830.

Bishop Coffey Delighted to Confirm Non-Practising Children

The bishop came to Morwell Catholic Parish on 6th December to confirm a number of children from the local Catholic primary schools. Most were not, strictly speaking, children of our parish. We had parish Confirmation earlier in the year by Fr John, after a lengthy preparation program by him for the parents, who in turn taught their children at home with the help of work-sheets and Father's guidance. Most of these were children we saw each weekend at Sunday Mass, we knew their names, we shared their joy when they received the Sacrament; and we still see them at Mass each weekend.

Many of the children the bishop came to confirm were strangers to us. They didn't seem to know what they were there for, in spite of the bishop praising their teachers for teaching them so well. These children didn't know when or how to respond to the Creed. "Do you reject Satan...?" Silence. The bishop says, "I didn't hear you, but I'm sure you do. Good. Do you believe in God the Father...?" A mumble from a few. "You do? Good. Thank you." He thanked them after each 'I do' they almost said, like he was grateful that they bothered to say anything. Perhaps they were just shy. Maybe I'm being unfair. But why should a bishop ingratiate himself with a group of young people by willing them to want to be Catholic. Why doesn't he demand more?

In his homily, Bishop Coffey admitted that parishioners wouldn't know these children, because they didn't join us for Mass on a regular basis. He admitted that he as bishop could have done better, that priests could have done better, that parents and teachers could have done better, and that indeed our whole parish could have done better. But he made it a hypothetical, not a challenge. Then he added with delight, "But they're *here!*" He repeated this thought a number of times, that while we could have done better, it's just great that these children have come, they're here, and isn't that a great accomplishment in spite of how we could have done better?

Well, no, it's not a great accomplishment. It's a disgrace. It's a disgrace that they are ushered up to receive a Sacrament of the Church they don't know; it's a disgrace that a bishop is delighted to confer this Sacrament, knowing full well that many are not practising members of the faith he is confirming them in, and it's a disgrace that he's happy to accept such low standards and congratulate himself on it.

Why do we admit failure and then immediately comfort ourselves that we're doing an okay job anyway. If we *should* do better, why don't we change what we're doing and make *sure* we do a better job?

The irony of all this of course is that in Morwell we *were* doing better, we did have better. We had a priest who took his responsibilities seriously. We had a priest who not only had a plan to address the problems, but had put his plan into action and had seen it starting to bear fruit. This is not a hypothetical issue, of how we can bring children into the church and teach them to love and practise the faith. This is a *real* issue, and we had a priest with a real plan to address it, and he was making real progress. And this same bishop who stands there in front of us and says we could have done better, removed our priest - for no criminal offence, no canon law offence - effectively retired him in his 50's. One can't help thinking he was removed precisely *because* he was doing better. He had the courage to tackle an enormous problem with careful thought and prayer and the Church's wisdom.

Is it easier for the bishop to assume that the problem is really too big to bother with? Is it safer to say there's no real answer so it's no use expending energy on it? Let's just admit that we're failing in some areas, but look on the bright side and say that at least it's not a *total* failure, because, well, they're *here!*

What a weak bishop and a sad sight. A Mass where we try to feel good about the failures we accept, where we try to make the youth feel that they are doing a marvellous job by letting us Sacramentalise them so that we can feel better about ourselves, where we reinforce for them that it's okay to turn up every few years for a special occasion at Mass, and that no further demands are placed on them. They get free membership to our Church, no rules to follow, no standards to adhere to, no restrictions or limits, no expectations. Those are only for the old people. But the youth - we need them so desperately to bolster our numbers and our consciences, that we will accept them on their own terms, no questions asked. At least they're here. Well, if those are the 'terms and conditions', then no wonder they seldom return. Why would they? Attending weekly footy training would be more inspiring.

My Pope would have had tears in his eyes if he had to sit and hear one of his bishops speak like he did that night.

Janet Kingman, Morwell

“Justice and love sometimes appear to be opposing forces. In fact they are but two faces of a single reality, two dimensions of human life needing to be mutually integrated.”

Pope John Paul II

Well, What Do Altar Servers Really Do?

I feel compelled to write about comments made by our Parish Administrator in Morwell, Father Cleary regarding altar servers.

Over my 26 years, Christ has greatly blessed my family, parish and myself. Few blessings greater than the appointment of our shepherd Father Speekman, a Christ-like man who has from his first days in our parish, been a light, and great inspiration in my journey of faith. It was he who at one particular Mass called for the men to fulfil the void left by the dwindling number of youth, to stand and take up the duty to serve at the altar of our Lord.

As one who as a child found immense joy in this, I immediately answered this call. Whenever Father was lacking a child from the parish to assist him at the altar, I would greet him in the sacristy and ask if I could take their place.

Although now the Mass has an entirely new and deeper meaning than it ever did to a 10-year old, to serve at the altar is a simple yet noble task. The sheer sense of the presence of Christ (in body) being only a few feet away is a humbling yet peaceful experience that fills your soul to the full.

Then for the first time since the appointment of Fr Cleary, I entered the sacristy of St Vincent's church prior to Mass. Being a Mass for the Confirmation of some of the parish children, Bishop Coffey was also present in the sacristy beside Fr Cleary. After greeting them both, I asked Fr Cleary if I may perform service at the altar that morning (due to no youth yet presenting themselves for the task).

Fr Cleary (in a quite jovial yet sarcastic way) asked me, "Well, what do altar servers really do?" Quite taken aback by this comment, I neither responded nor argued, but simply took my place back in the seats of the church, feeling dumbstruck and disheartened. I remained troubled by his comment throughout the entire Mass, made worse still by the deafening silence of the ringing bell (or lack of it) at the consecration, and other services usually provided by an altar server, now rendered by Fr Cleary.

Then the very same man, at the end of Mass the following Sunday, publicly asked parishioners to become more actively involved, by performing readings etc.

Therefore I am compelled to ask: Why, Fr Cleary, do you see altar servers (a centuries-honoured liturgical service) as a dispensable part of the Mass, and why not the other services performed by the laity, like readings commentaries, choir? Why not dispense with these? Could it be asked, "Well, what does the offertory procession really do?"

Why publicly ask for more laity assistance in Mass and refuse my offer of assistance merely a week beforehand? Obviously your public comments contradict what you say in private. Father, I hope this way of dismissing my offer to assist you and the Bishop at the altar was due to my name or age, rather than some extraordinary idea that altar servers are of no importance?

Bishop Coffey, after hearing this comment, why not correct your priest as a good shepherd should? Am I to believe a bishop, in the stead of Christ, could ignore such a thing? For the sake of our children, our future servers, I hope not. Does this not contradict the essence of your 'Journeying Together' program?

Sean Kennedy, Toongabbie

Serving is Genuine Liturgical Function

28. In liturgical celebrations each person, minister or layman, who has an office to perform, should do all of, but only, those parts which pertain to his office by the nature of the rite and the principles of liturgy.

29. Servers, lectors commentators, and members of the choir also exercise a genuine liturgical function. They ought, therefore, to discharge their office with the sincere piety and decorum demanded by so exalted a ministry and rightly expected of them by God's people.

Consequently they must all be deeply imbued with the spirit of the liturgy, each in his own measure, and they must be trained to perform their functions in a correct and orderly manner.

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

Fr Speekman No Saint

I must strongly object to Skye of Morwell likening Father Speekman to Padre Pio in December's 'Into the Deep'. Obviously Skye has very little knowledge of Padre Pio, as Father Speekman is nothing like him.

Although I am very supportive of Father Speekman, I too have great respect for Padre Pio who is truly a saint. Father Speekman is not a saint and I doubt that he will ever be canonised one.

So please Skye, keep your opinions in proper perspective, otherwise you demean our saints.

Roman Kulkewycz, Maffra

New Twist on Fr Speekman Saga

An interview on ABC rural radio and a report in the Melbourne Age on November 28, revealed a new twist in the sorry saga of Fr Speekman, the sacked parish priest of Morwell.

Describing a “growing conflict between parish priests and principals in Catholic schools”, the secretary of the Victorian Independent Education Union (VIEU), Mr Tony Keenan, said disputes between parish priests and principals had become so serious that principals had taken stress leave.

The union requested Archbishop Hart to intervene, claiming that some priests are undermining the authority of principals and the work of school staff. It cited cases where parish priests had allegedly disrupted classes by walking in unannounced to question students on catechism. Mr Keenan said one such conflict in a country school had taken two years to solve.

Into the Deep later spoke to Mr Keenan and asked him to explain what the solution was in this case he mentioned. He replied that he could not comment because a bishop was involved and the matter had not been finally resolved. When it was explained that in Gippsland we had a parish priest removed by decree with no valid reason given and asked if that was the case in point he said he could not say but that it “could be the case”.

It is known that the former principal of St Vincent’s school in Morwell, Mrs Swenson, worked closely with officials in the Catholic Education Office (CEO) in Warragul, in the campaign to get rid of Fr Speekman. It now seems that the VIEU was also involved.

Has Bishop Coffey supported not only the CEO but the union as well, in their efforts to usurp the authority of parish priests, who represent the church in Catholic schools?

Fr Speekman, because he stood up for the church and its teachings, has paid the heavy and unjust price of removal by decree as a result. The success or failure of his appeal to Rome may well determine the outcome of the battle to ensure Catholic schools in the diocese of Sale are Catholic.

Timeline Update

The Congregation for the Clergy has advised that they have extended the time allowed themselves to make a decision regarding Fr Speekman’s case. They expect to have a decision by early March, as opposed to mid-December as they initially predicted.

The Person Behind the Doors

On the weekend of 21st December, I had a notice in our parish bulletin that there would be no Eucharistic Adoration the following week from 9pm 25/12 to 9pm 26/12 because of Christmas. This is our normal weekly time for Adoration.

Instead of leaving it at that, Fr Cleary announced that there would still be Eucharistic Adoration as the church would be open and we could adore before the tabernacle. This to me seemed to imply that adoring before the exposed Jesus was the same as adoring Jesus present in the tabernacle.

To clarify this in my own mind, I visited Fr Cleary. I asked him if my assumption that he was implying there was no difference between adoring Jesus exposed on the altar and in the tabernacle was correct. After asking for a simple answer, he replied yes. A discussion then ensued. Father maintained there was no difference. I held the contrary view and I still hold it.

(Father did however indicate that he thought Fr Speekman had a good point in wanting to erect a wall in the church to create a separate Adoration chapel.)

My view is that we come face to face with Jesus exposed on the altar, and do not when we pray before the tabernacle. How would we like it if we went to Rome for our own private audience with the Pope, and then found we had to talk through closed doors? We’d know he’s there, but it wouldn’t be the same as meeting him face to face.

The Holy Father has encouraged bishops and priests to have Perpetual Adoration (meaning the adoration of Jesus exposed on the altar). He has encouraged them to be examples to the laity by praying before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, e.g. in Ecclesia de Eucharistia (para 25): “It is the responsibility of Pastors to encourage, also by their personal witness, the practice of Eucharistic adoration, and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in particular.”

I would urge all readers to ask their bishop or parish priest to promote Adoration in their parishes. You can help by recruiting adorers and organising rosters.

Here in Morwell we have Eucharistic Adoration from 9pm Thursday to 9pm Friday each week. We are thinking of extending that to Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 5pm to midnight as well. Anyone interested can contact me on 5134 1742.

Before Fr Speekman arrived in the parish, we only had one hour of Adoration after Friday Mass.

Incidentally, I asked Fr Cleary if, on the weekend of 28/12 he would promote the return of usual Adoration hours. He did not.

John Henderson, Morwell

Hours of Eucharistic Adoration

Bass	Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Cowwarr-Heyfld	1 st Friday alternately: Cwr 7.30pm–8.30am Heyfield 10am – 4.30pm
Cranbourne	Tuesday (9.30 Mass) 10am – 11am Wednesday (9.30 Mass) 10am – 11am Friday (9.30 Mass) 10am – 10pm Saturday (9.30 Mass) 10am – 11am
Drouin	Thursday 10am – 11am First Fridays 7.30pm – midnight (alternating months, December onwards)
Lakes Entrance	Friday 9am – 12noon 2 nd Thursday 10am – 11am 11 th of the month 1 Hour after Mass
Morwell	Thursday 9pm – Friday 9pm
Orbost	Friday 10am – 11am
Rosedale	First Wednesday 10.30am – 11.30am
Sale	Friday 11.30am – 2pm First Friday 11.30am – 6pm
Traralgon	Wednesday 11am – 12 noon
Warragul	Saturday 10am – 11am First Fridays 7.30pm – midnight (alternating months, January onwards)

Please contact us to update and extend this list with hours of Adoration throughout Sale diocese.

Do You Know Jesus?

“I worry that some of you still have not really met Jesus - one to one - you and Jesus alone. We may spend time in chapel - but have you seen with the eyes of your soul how He looks at you with love? Do you really know the living Jesus - not from books but from being with Him in your heart? Have you heard the loving words He speaks to you? ... Never give up this every day intimate contact with Jesus as a real living person - not just an idea.”

Mother Teresa, in a letter to her religious sisters

Bishop Coffey Denies Rome Visit

Bishop Coffey, in a statement to Morwell parishioners during weekend Confirmation Masses, emphatically denied having been to Rome, or even having left the diocese. This was in response to a report that he had been seen in Rome recently, and suggestion that this was in relation to Fr Speakman's case.

Into the Deep finds it an interesting reflection on the man, that he will publicly deny an innocuous rumour involving himself, while still not finding it necessary to publicly deny the persistent rumours that Fr Speakman's case is related to sexual offences (it is nowhere stated in the Decree of Removal that there is anything of a sexual nature involved.) His silence on this issue has severely damaged Fr Speakman's good name.

Mary, our mother

And mother of the Redeemer,
Gate of heaven and star of the sea,
Come to the aid of your people,
Who have sinned,
Yet also yearn to rise again!
Come to the Church's aid,
Enlighten your devoted children,
Strengthen the faithful throughout the world,
Let those who have drifted hear your call,
And may they who live as prisoners of evil
Be converted!

John Paul II

Monstrance?

From the Greek

To Show!

Contact Into the Deep

E-mail stoneswillshout@yahoo.com.au

www.stoneswillshout.com

Please notify by e-mail if you would like to be added to the regular e-mailing list.

Into the Deep, PO Box 446, Traralgon, Vic 3844

The purpose of Into the Deep is to provide a forum for those who:

- no longer have a voice in Catholic Life, our diocesan newspaper,
- wish to understand and defend the teachings of the Catholic Church,
- wish to support and defend those who are unjustly treated by Church bureaucrats and organisations,
- wish to campaign for the renewal of our Catholic schools,
- wish to promote Eucharistic Adoration in all parishes,
- wish to have a means of support and contact for one another in remaining true to our Catholic faith.

Letters to the Editor

Readers are encouraged to contribute letters or articles. We cannot guarantee that all will be published, and some will be edited due to space.

Please keep letters factual, and report only first-hand information.

The purpose of sharing letters is to pass on relevant information and suggestions for making positive changes, that is, in line with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

We live in joyful hope that the diocese we love can be faithful to the authentic tradition of the Church. As such, Into the Deep aims to be a messenger of hope and not of doom.

Name, address and phone number must accompany letters. However, if there is a reasonable request, anonymity will be preserved when publishing.