

Into the Deep

Issue 172

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

June 2017

Thank You

ITD has been inundated with support since the last issue – thank you to everyone who has written in or donated in the last month. There have been numerous letters of encouragement – as well as a few others. Read on to see what people think. And please keep up the input!

Ed.

Impossible to Express

I've just made a small contribution to the money tin. Also I'm trusting you never stop publishing *Into the Deep*. Our Lord surely shall see to its continuation through your wonderful dedication. I've been a blessed recipient of this superb monthly publication for some time and it's impossible to adequately express how much it means to me to be part of the *Into the Deep* readership community, feeling at one with fellow travellers towards our heavenly home.

Carolyn Nock, Bowral, New South Wales

Precious Treasure

Pope Francis to the sick, Fatima, 13-05-2017

The Lord always goes before us. Whenever we experience a cross, he has already been there ahead of us. In his passion, he took upon himself all our suffering. Jesus knows the meaning of sorrow and pain. He understands us, he comforts us and he gives us strength, as he did to Saint Francisco Marto and Saint Jacinta, and to the saints of every time and place. ...

I invite those of you who are sick to live your lives as a gift. Like the shepherd children, tell Our Lady that you want to offer yourselves to God with all your heart. Don't think of yourselves simply as the recipients of charitable solidarity, but feel that you share fully in the Church's life and mission. Your silent presence, which is more eloquent than a flood of words, your prayers, the daily offering of your sufferings in union with those of Jesus crucified for the salvation of the world, the patient and even joyful acceptance of your condition – all these are a spiritual resource, an asset to every Christian community. Do not be ashamed of being a precious treasure of the Church.

Zenit.org 13-05-2017

Faith in the Resurrection

Pope Francis, Homily in Cairo, 29-04-2017

Faith in the resurrection is not a product of the Church, but the Church herself is born of faith in the resurrection. As Saint Paul says: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain."

The Risen Lord vanished from the sight of the disciples in order to teach us that we cannot hold on to Jesus as he appeared in history: "Blessed are those who believe and yet have not seen."

The Church needs to know and believe that Jesus lives within her and gives her life in the Eucharist, the scriptures and the sacraments. The disciples on the way to Emmaus realized this, and returned to Jerusalem in order to share their experience with the others: "We have seen the Risen One... Yes, he is truly risen!"

Zenit.org 29-04-2017

All issues of *Into the Deep* are at www.stoneswillshout.com/wp

Encouragement

I am pleased to enclose my cheque to support Into the Deep publications and wish you success in the future. I am always pleased to receive my monthly copy. Thank you for all your perseverance.

Jillian Sebire, Sandringham, Victoria

Thank you for your wonderful publication which I read from cover to cover. Thank God for your wonderful work. May you be blessed to continue!

Margaret Lloyd, Junortoun, Victoria

Please note my change of address. I hope to continue receiving your great little publication, which I share with others. God bless you and all your work.

Yvonne Geyle, Lake Wendouree, Victoria

I have enjoyed Into the Deep for many years now so I hope this small donation is of some help. Keep up the good work. Thank you and God bless!

Christina Freese, Caulfield, Victoria

A Circle

"The better you know Jesus,
the more his mystery attracts you.

The more you discover him,
the more you are moved
to seek him."

Pope Benedict XVI, 19-08-2005

Sad

With sadness I have read the latest Into the Deep, because I sense a tiredness and difficulty in continuing ITD. And why not, you have been so wonderful in printing so much over the years, through such difficult times and at your own personal cost with your time, researching, reporting etc. I am all for you taking a well-earned rest. Enclosed is a small donation for costs whatever you decide. May God bless you always.

Moira Scully, Sandringham, Victoria

Spreading the Word

On 3rd June I hope to celebrate my 84th birthday, D.V. I grew up as the baker's daughter in Warrandyte. I married a DLP farmer who stood for the Legislative Council for Bendigo. Twice I was a DLP candidate.

Miss Molly Brennan, no.1 on the Victorian Secondary Schools principals roll, introduced me to your excellent newsletter in her retirement in Bendigo. Recently my cousin's widow, of Templestowe, took out a subscription as she read my copy and was very impressed.

Enclosed is my cheque to help the continuing publication of your excellent Catholic newspaper. God bless all contributors.

Audrey Drechsler, Sedgwick, Victoria

Oldest and Youngest

Oldest: "Just a wee correction of your mention of your oldest reader – I am 87 ½ years!" Can anyone beat that? And who's our youngest? **Ed.**

Information, Inspiration, Consolation

Thank you for faithfully providing us, your readership, with such a fount of information, inspiration and consolation over all these years.

I have consulted those to whom I deliver and have received the same solemn response everywhere – that you thoroughly deserve a rest from your labours.

We would all miss Into the Deep. It has linked us together in the struggle to hand on the faith. For our part, we are grateful for having had the supreme advantage of question-and-answer classroom catechism while growing up. Sadly, since the catechism was sidelined, hats of all stripes have been thrown into the ring of opinion, with the inevitable tragic result.

I would like to record here my esteem for Fr John Speekman, Fr Ken Clark and the Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross generally, and all faithful priests and religious.

Laurel Smith, Sandringham, Victoria

Daily Rosary Indulgence

A plenary indulgence can be obtained by saying the holy Rosary [see Enchiridion of Indulgences, n.48, opposite].

We have been promoting this in our churches here in Tamworth, and especially during May, when saying the Rosary before Mass and including prayers for the intentions of Our Holy Father. Usually the special prayer for the Pope, "May the Lord preserve him and keep him from all harm, and deliver him not up to the Will of his enemies", is said, along with the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.

This is such a wonderful opportunity for the complete remission of all punishment due to sin, and so few know about it. The conditions for receiving this are as Fr Speekman stated in his homily (May ITD, p.11), sacramental Confession, within 20 days before or after the event; Eucharistic Communion, on the same day; and prayers for the Pope's intentions.

You can only gain one indulgence per day, but what an incredible prayer is the Holy Rosary and when said in this way can get us straight to Heaven.

Bernadette Maguire, Tamworth, New South Wales

Indulgences: Rosary

**Enchiridion of Indulgences, issued by the Sacred
Apostolic Penitentiary, 1968**

48. Recitation of the Marian Rosary:

A plenary indulgence is granted, if the Rosary is recited in a church or public oratory or in a family group, a religious Community or pious Association; a partial indulgence is granted in other circumstances.

"Now the Rosary is a certain formula of prayer, which is made up of fifteen decades of "Hail Marys" with an "Our Father" before each decade, and in which the recitation of each decade is accompanied by pious meditation on a particular mystery of our Redemption" (Roman Breviary). The name "Rosary," however, is commonly used in reference to only a third part of the fifteen decades.

The gaining of the plenary indulgence is regulated by the following norms:

- 1) The recitation of a third part only of the Rosary suffices; but the five decades must be recited continuously.
- 2) The vocal recitation must be accompanied by pious meditation on the mysteries.
- 3) In public recitation the mysteries must be announced in the manner customary in the place; for private recitation, however, it suffices if the vocal recitation is accompanied by meditation on the mysteries.

Peter and Paul

Pope Benedict XVI, Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, 28-06-2007

From the outset, Christian tradition has considered Peter and Paul to have been inseparable, even if each had a different mission to accomplish. Peter professed his faith in Christ first; Paul obtained as a gift the ability to deepen its riches. Peter founded the first community of Christians who came from the Chosen People; Paul became the Apostle to the Gentiles. With different charisms they worked for one and the same cause: the building of Christ's Church.

In the Office of Readings, the liturgy offers us for meditation this well-known text of St Augustine:

"One day is assigned for the celebration of the martyrdom of the two Apostles. But those two were one. Although their martyrdom occurred on different days, they were one. Peter went first, Paul followed. We celebrate this feast day which is made sacred for us by the blood of these Apostles."

And St Leo the Great comments:

"About their merits and virtues, which surpass all power of speech, we must not make distinctions, because they were equal in their election, alike in their toils, undivided in their death." ...

However humanly different they may have been from each other and despite the tensions that existed in their relationship, Peter and Paul appear as the founders of a new City, the expression of a new and authentic way of being brothers which was made possible by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Zenit.org 23-07-2007

The Holy Mass is Not a Diversion

Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, in an address to a colloquium in Germany, 31-03-2017 on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of *Summorum Pontificum*

Certainly, the Second Vatican Council wished to promote greater active participation by the people of God and to bring about progress day by day in the Christian life of the faithful (see *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, n. 1). Certainly, some fine initiatives were taken along these lines.

However we cannot close our eyes to the disaster, the devastation and the schism that the modern promoters of a living liturgy caused by remodeling the Church's liturgy according to their ideas. They forgot that the liturgical act is not just a *prayer*, but also and above all a *mystery* in which something is accomplished for us that we cannot fully understand but that we must accept and receive in faith, love, obedience and adoring silence.

And this is the real meaning of active participation of the faithful. It is not about exclusively external activity, the distribution of roles or of functions in the liturgy, but rather about an intensely active receptivity: this reception is, in Christ and with Christ, the humble offering of oneself in silent prayer and a thoroughly contemplative attitude.

The serious crisis of faith, not only at the level of the Christian faithful but also and especially among many priests and bishops, has made us incapable of understanding the Eucharistic liturgy as a sacrifice, as identical to the act performed once and for all by Jesus Christ, making present the Sacrifice of the Cross in a non-bloody manner, throughout the Church, through different ages, places, peoples and nations.

There is often a sacrilegious tendency to reduce the Holy Mass to a simple convivial meal, the celebration of a profane feast, the community's celebration of itself, or even worse, a terrible diversion from the anguish of a life that no longer has meaning or from the fear of meeting God face to face, because His glance unveils and obliges us to look truly and unflinchingly at the ugliness of our interior life.

But the Holy Mass is not a diversion. It is the living sacrifice of Christ who died on the cross to free us from sin and death, for the purpose of revealing the love and the glory of God the Father.

Many Catholics do not know that the final purpose of every liturgical celebration is the glory and adoration of God, [and] the salvation and sanctification of human beings since in the liturgy "God is perfectly glorified and men are sanctified" (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, n. 7).

Catholicworldreport.com

I'm Going to Hell...

**Reflection by Fr John Speekman,
homiliesfromaustralia.blogspot.com.au**

So you are a sinner. So you are a big sinner. So you have committed sins so big and so often you burn with shame at the very thought of them. You tell me you deserve hell. You tell me you are going to hell – but I say, hang on, there is one sin you haven't committed yet and that sin is the only sin that can send you to hell.

Only when you reject the hand of mercy the Lord is holding out to you, only then do you deserve hell; only then will you go to hell because – to reject the mercy of God is the ultimate sin.

Oh, and don't forget, Jesus himself said: "The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy."

Like a Skin Graft

Fulton Sheen, Lift Up Your Heart, p.257-258

The communicability of merits in the communion of saints is one of the most beautiful and consoling truths taught by the Church. Love between its members does not operate only on the horizontal plane – between one person and another – but resembles a triangle; a sacrificial prayer breathed on earth is lifted up to our High Priest, Christ in Heaven; He transubstantiates it with His merits and sends it down to earth again to enrich the sinful soul in need. As it is possible to graft skin from one part of the body to another to heal a burn, so it is possible in the Mystical Body to graft a prayer; as it is possible to transfuse blood from one healthy person to another to cure him of his weakened condition, so it is possible to transfuse sacrifice.

Daniel Andrews Must Be Stopped

I hope those Catholics who read the recent Pastoral Letter to Victoria's Catholics from their Victorian bishops (excerpts in May ITD, p.8), realise the gravity of their warning against proposed assisted suicide legislation.

If people want to be put down like animals, we have only ourselves to blame if Daniel Andrews' government starts treating us like animals.

Reports out of countries where assisted suicide has been legalised, are horrific. A Dutch doctor drugged an 80 year old victim's coffee while her family held her down as she tried to fight off the lethal injection. In Canada, less than a year after "medical aid in dying" was legalised, doctors are pleading to have their names taken off the list of those willing to participate. Of the 137 on the list, 54 are either permanently off it or "on hold."

Daniel Andrews must be stopped from turning doctors into killers.

Denise Cameron, North Fitzroy, Victoria

Walking the Streets

Pope Francis, June 2015, Feast of Corpus Christi

Today, the feast of Corpus Christi, we have the joy not only of celebrating this mystery, but also of praising Him and singing in the streets of our city.

May the procession we will make at the end of the Mass, express our gratitude for all the journey that God has allowed us to make through the desert of our poverty, to take us out of slavery, by nourishing us with His love through the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Soon, as we walk the streets, let us perceive ourselves in communion with our many brothers and sisters who do not have the freedom to express their faith in the Lord Jesus. Let us feel that we are united with them, let us sing with them, praise with them, worship with them.

And we venerate in our hearts those brothers and sisters who have been asked to sacrifice their lives for their fidelity to Christ. May their blood, united to that of the Lord, be a pledge of peace and reconciliation for the whole world.

Vatican Information Service, 05-06-2015

More Grey

Recently I received my latest Fatima Crusader and when I read the letter in which it mentions the modernist call to accept "grey areas" regarding our faith, I thought of Catholic Life's call for us to be "more grey" and no more letters to the editor. Hence the birth of ITD and a voice for orthodoxy.

Over the years you and your contributors have done a great job, but dare I say it, without offending you (I am not the only one who feels this way), ITD has become slowly more politically correct and even "more grey" with feel-good selective quotes, especially from Pope Francis. "Fidelity" magazine, for example, has had the guts to speak out and defend the truth.

My request is that you read what I have enclosed [letter by Andrew Cesanek of Fatima Crusader, and article "Why Pope Francis is a False-Prophet" by an anonymous U.S. priest], pray about it – as I shall – then with God's grace and the intercession of the Virgin most powerful you will again be able to launch out into the deep, the 'stones will shout', and Her Immaculate Heart will triumph.

Richard Earle, Marlo, Victoria

It is true that I have avoided getting into the raging debate about whether our Pope is Catholic or not. There is enough of that going on in the world and I don't see it as being helpful to contribute to it in ITD. We have the teachings of the Magisterium to guide us, and the Pope as head of our Church has my honour and respect and I am willing to listen to his teachings with an open heart. I trust that the Holy Spirit is in control and that He will sort out any confusion in due course. The Barque of Peter is safe in God's hands and we need only strive to humbly follow the Church's teachings day to day as we always have. At the end of nearly every address Pope Francis gives, he asks us to pray for him. That is the best we can do.

Ed.

Love Made Visible

Excerpts from a pastoral letter on adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist, by Bishop James Conley,
Diocese of Lincoln, Holy Thursday 2017

We are made for love.

We are made to love, and to be loved.

Each one of us longs to be loved, because love is the source and the meaning of our lives. Without love, our lives feel empty, meaningless, and lonely. Most of us have found that nothing can take the place of love – nothing can satisfy us but love, given and received, by which we experience the love of God.

We are made by Love, in the image of Love, and for the purpose of Love – because God is love, and God has created each one of us in and through love.

Indeed, love is at the centre of what it means to be a person. And the whole Christian mystery is the story of God's love for us – the love of Jesus Christ, who came into the world for love.

Christ came into the world because the bonds of love between God and mankind had been broken by sin, and only he could repair them. He came because God loves us enough to atone for our sins. He came in love to undo the brokenness, pain, emptiness, and death brought forth by our frequent failure to love. He came to accept the death we deserve as sinners, to die so that we could have life. He came to save the world, through love. In love, he became a sacrifice to atone for our sin and to bring salvation to the world.

Love is selfless sacrifice, and sacrifice is the language of love. Love is the gift of ourselves to our beloved. And Christ made a gift of himself – he gave us his body and blood – poured himself out for our salvation, when he conquered death by dying and rising again.

Christ gave us his body and blood, as an act of love, so that we could know the love of God. ...

.....

We are living in a time, and a culture, which does not seem to know the love of God. In fact, Pope St. John Paul II taught that we are living in a culture that "often lives as if God does not exist." ...

We are acutely aware that in our world abortion is tolerated, personal conscience obliterated, and the family undermined and attacked by the cultural powers that shape public opinion and policy. More personally, we are all aware that in our post-Christian culture, men and women are impacted by a terrible loneliness, a despondency, and, ultimately, by the gripping despair of life without God.

Today, the great advances in technology have combined with our ethos of relativism to form a world in need of beauty, and truth and goodness: in need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We live in a world which is longing to experience the love of God. We live in missionary territory, as "strangers in a strange land." Our world, our Church, our parishes, communities, and families are all in need of the renewal that comes in and through Christ's love. And God is calling us to be missionaries of renewal in Jesus Christ. ...

We, who have experienced God's love and become his disciples, are called – each of us – to be missionaries of the Gospel, proclaiming Jesus Christ, as if for the very first time, to our families, neighbours, and friends – to souls living in a culture longing for Jesus Christ.

But to witness to renewal through God's love, our own hearts must grow in ever deeper love for God. To be true missionaries, we must experience a daily conversion of the heart – a daily renewal of life in God's love. At the heart of the renewal is the holy Eucharist. ...

Pope Benedict XVI said that the Church's great saints "constantly renewed their capacity for love of neighbour from their encounter with the Eucharistic Lord."

The Eucharist, which is the "source and summit" of our faith, has the power to transform us – to deepen our intimate friendship with Jesus Christ, to remake our hearts like his, and to fill us with the power of his love. ...

God is calling us to be holy missionaries of the Gospel. And at the heart of holiness is the Eucharist.

.....

Continued on page 7...

When we adore Christ in the Eucharist, exposed in the monstrance, we gaze directly at the mystery of his presence. The Eucharist is love made visible. ...

I often ask children to imagine walking by the house of the Holy Family in Nazareth. Children who love the Lord might remember that Jesus lives there, and make a gesture of reverence, or say a short prayer. But if we walked by the Lord's house, and he was out on the porch, and we could look directly at him, we would stop, and talk to him, and know that he was hearing us, and talking to us. So it is with adoring Christ in the Eucharist, visible to us in the monstrance. We see him, and we know that he sees us. We speak to him, and we know that he hears us. When we adore Christ in the Eucharist, exposed in the monstrance, the Lord engages all of our senses, through the ministry of the Church, to awaken us to the power of encountering him – love made visible. ...

In friendship, in the dialogue of Eucharistic adoration, God transforms us, so that, in love, we can make gifts of our ourselves to the world, just as Christ has made a gift of himself in the Eucharist. ...

.....

Encountering Christ in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is an invitation, for all people, to deepen their relationship with the Lord, and to grow in communion with his Church. In adoration, we grow in unity and friendship with him – we learn to hear his voice, to know his will, and, most especially, to know and trust the power of his love.

Everyone – no matter his circumstances – can kneel before the Eucharist, and encounter, in visible reality, the mystery of God's transformative and powerful love. We all long for love, and in the gift of Eucharistic adoration, we can all experience the love of the Lord.

No one needs to be a mystic to kneel before the Lord in adoration. Everyone begins the practice of prayer without knowing much about how to pray. But in silence, kneeling before Jesus, we learn how God speaks to us. We learn to hear his "still, small voice," and we learn to speak to God from the depths of our own hearts. In silence, we learn to put aside the plaguing distractions of our time – the chirping and buzzing of our technology – and simply experience the presence of God, which transforms us in peace.

"God's first language," said St. John of the Cross, "is silence." In the silence of Eucharistic adoration, we learn true humility. As we kneel before our Creator-God, we are confronted with the power and the mystery of God's love. And it is from this silence and humility that we experience a deep communion and friendship with God. ...

There are prayerful steps we can take, in the silence of Eucharistic adoration, to hear the Lord's voice. We can begin by thanking God for his presence, and by asking him to help us to know him, and to love him. We can acknowledge our distractions, and ask the Lord to give us the gift of silence. And, through Scripture, or the mysteries of the rosary, through some other spiritual practice or reading, or through simple contemplation of God's goodness, we can begin to hear the Lord's voice. We can share our hearts with the Lord, and ask him to fill our minds, our imaginations, and our hearts with his presence.

God speaks to us when he is present before us in the Eucharist. We need only learn his language: we need only dare to kneel humbly before the Lord and, with trust in God, begin a dialogue of silence – intimate, powerful, and real.

.....

I have encouraged our pastors to expose the Blessed Sacrament for holy hours, or for days of prayer, or for perpetual adoration, as often as possible. I encourage our schools to make adoration a regular part of each week, whenever possible. And I encourage all Catholics to make adoration of the Blessed Sacrament a daily part of life, and to be committed to a holy hour of Eucharistic adoration at least once a week, whenever possible before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. ...

May our common mission as Christ's disciples be renewed, strengthened, and deepened by God's love, in our silent adoration of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Christ, who is love made visible.

Communication Ban

In recent weekend Mass bulletins, the parish priest of St Joseph's Springvale, Fr Benedict La Volpe, has advised he will be away on 3 months' sabbatical with some spiritual time in Fatima and Padua. He included: "If anyone would like to give me their Prayer Intentions I will be more than happy to bring them to both places."

Reading this invitation left me sad and frustrated, wondering how I could give my prayer intentions to Fr La Volpe who once instructed me via one of his fellow friars that he would accept no more correspondence from me. He also banned me from entering the parish centre "at any time for any reason" and, not long after that, stopped me outside the church, telling me in a rather loud tone he never wanted to see my face again. For many weeks I avoided attending Mass at St Joseph's until I began to miss receiving Our Lord there in Holy Communion at Mass. Then I found renewed stamina to revisit the parish, greatly at ease there were no repercussions from the PP.

It has been an ongoing challenge, mentally and spiritually, to live with the experience of Fr La Volpe's 'communication ban' following his angry, condescending written reply to my letter (soon after his appointment as PP) respectfully asking him to correct certain liturgical abuses, which in fact continue to this day (I had included a copy of the relevant, unambiguous Vatican guidelines).

It appears the best I can do in present circumstances is to continue to pray ever more earnestly for Fr La Volpe so that, during his spiritual time in Fatima and Padua, he will be blest with a renewed spirit of open communication to listen to, acknowledge and respond as a real pastor to legitimate concerns expressed by lay faithful. I wish Fr La Volpe a fruitful and safe sabbatical.

Peter Phillips, Springvale, Victoria

No Longer Orphans

Pope Francis, Pentecost Homily 2016

"I will not leave you orphans" (Jn 14:18).

The central purpose of Jesus mission, which culminated in the gift of the Holy Spirit, was to *renew our relationship with the Father*, a relationship severed by sin, to *take us from our state of being orphaned children and to restore us as his sons and daughters*. ...

The Spirit is given to us by the Father and leads us back to the Father. The entire work of salvation is one of "re-generation", in which the fatherhood of God, through the gift of the Son and the Holy Spirit, frees us from the condition of being orphans into which we had fallen. In our own day also, we see various signs of our being orphans: in the interior loneliness which we feel even when we are surrounded by people...; in the attempt to be free of God, even if accompanied by a desire for his presence; in the all-too-common spiritual illiteracy which renders us incapable of prayer; in the difficulty in grasping the truth and reality of eternal life as that fullness of communion which begins on earth and reaches full flower after death; in the effort to see others as "brothers" and "sisters", since we are children of the same Father...

Being children of God runs contrary to all this and is our primordial vocation. We were made to be God's children, it is in our DNA. But this filial relationship was ruined and required the sacrifice of God's only-begotten Son in order to be restored. From the immense gift of love which is Jesus' death on the cross, the Holy Spirit has been poured out upon humanity like a vast torrent of grace. Those who by faith are immersed into this mystery of regeneration are reborn to the fullness of filial life.

"I will not leave you orphans". Today, on the feast of Pentecost, Jesus' words remind us also of the maternal presence of Mary in the Upper Room. The Mother of Jesus is with the community of disciples gathered in prayer: she is the living remembrance of the Son and the living invocation of the Holy Spirit. She is the Mother of the Church. We entrust to her intercession, in a particular way, all Christians, families and communities that at this moment are most in need of the Spirit, the Paraclete, the Defender and Comforter, the Spirit of truth, freedom and peace.

Zenit.org 15-05-2016

None So Blind

The comments by John Henderson (May ITD, p.6) are sadly so true. Despite the fact that close to 100% of students in our Catholic schools leave the Faith even before they finish school, our leaders refuse to admit that we have a problem.

After reading an article in the December 2016 edition of Catholic Life, proclaiming a new resource produced by Catholic Education authorities in the Sale Diocese, I wrote to Bishop O'Regan and asked him several questions. The article explained that the new resource was needed "as a result of interest in the Catholic faith shown by young people in parish communities and Catholic secondary schools." It went on to say that "there was nothing formally written that suited our diocesan circumstances...". At the end of the article there was a comment that "young people no longer used traditional learning methods." So I asked if the fact that no resource was available meant that the schools no longer taught the students the truths and beliefs of the Catholic faith, and in view of the comment that "young people no longer used traditional learning methods," meant that students were now deciding what they will learn in regard to Catholic teaching.

He replied that my supposition was wrong and the "Catholic schools are a treasure." He did not comment on my question as to whether the lack of Catholic teaching in Catholic schools was a major reason why almost one hundred per cent of students no longer believe or practise the Catholic Faith after twelve years of "Catholic" teaching. Which is strange when we see every Sunday that numbers are declining and the Church is dying. Throughout history, when people have been told the truths of the Catholic faith, many have responded and joined the Church. So if students in Catholic schools are learning about the Faith, then there is no reason why almost all of them show little interest. Should a medical or engineering school produce no graduates then action would be taken. So why no action when Catholic schools are not producing results?

And why for the last forty years have our leaders refused to admit there is a problem? But then there are none so blind as those who refuse to see.

Pat O'Brien, Sale, Victoria

Our Faith is Nobler and Stronger

Saint Leo the Great

At Easter, beloved brethren, it was the Lord's resurrection which was the cause of our joy; our present rejoicing is on account of his ascension into heaven. With all due solemnity we are commemorating that day on which our poor human nature was carried up, in Christ, above all the hosts of heaven, above all the ranks of angels, beyond the highest heavenly powers to the very throne of God the Father. ...

And so our Redeemer's visible presence has passed into the sacraments. Our faith is nobler and stronger because sight has been replaced by a doctrine whose authority is accepted by believing hearts, enlightened from on high. This faith was increased by the Lord's ascension and strengthened by the gift of the Spirit; it would remain unshaken by fetters and imprisonment, exile and hunger, fire and ravening beasts, and the most refined tortures ever devised by brutal persecutors. Throughout the world women no less than men, tender girls as well as boys, have given their life's blood in the struggle for this faith. It is a faith that has driven out devils, healed the sick and raised the dead.

Even the blessed apostles, though they had been strengthened by so many miracles and instructed by so much teaching, took fright at the cruel suffering of the Lord's passion and could not accept his resurrection without hesitation. Yet they made such progress through his ascension that they now found joy in what had terrified them before. They were able to fix their minds on Christ's divinity as he sat at the right hand of his Father, since what was presented to their bodily eyes no longer hindered them from turning all their attention to the realization that he had not left his Father when he came down to earth, nor had he abandoned his disciples when he ascended into heaven.

The School of Mary's Holy Rosary

On Saturday May 13, I joined 60 others from around the diocese of Sale to spend a day with Mary, the Mother of God, in Cowwarr.

This annual Marian day coincided with the 100th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima. It started beautifully with the prayerful recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary in front of the Blessed Sacrament, followed simply by a quiet reflection on a Scriptural quote to accompany each decade of the Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries of the Rosary.

While I had come to the day expecting to learn more about the messages given to the 3 children of Fatima, there in the presence of Christ it dawned upon me that the day really belonged to Him, the Word made flesh, the very fruit of Mary's womb.

There and then I realised that the primary purpose of the day was really to learn to see Christ in the many forms of his presence in his Church, and to contemplate Him in his inexhaustible mysteries. The nativity mystery, the mystery of his hidden life, the mystery of his public life and his paschal mystery.

Right there in the presence of Christ, I realised that the Holy Rosary is nothing but a simple prayerful guide devised by the heart of our Mother, the Church to teach us to 'see' Jesus and to contemplate his mysteries in order that we may become people of prayer and penance, engaged in ongoing conversion – the very thrust of the Fatima messages.

Later Fr Ken Clark gave two talks on Our Lady of the Rosary and the messages of Fatima. As I listened, it struck me that there is nothing new and radical in them than say the message of Jesus - the Word of life that comes straight from the mouth of the Lord. And therefore, we should be careful to keep them in their proper perspective with regards the sources of Divine revelation in the Church.

They do not form part of the deposit of the faith and should not be placed before or above the Scriptures, the Word of God. They are not binding on any of our Church leaders and neither do they call any of the faithful to obedience. They simply echo the messengers of penance, prayer and devotion which flood the Scriptures.

All too often I have come across faithful Catholics who are all clued up about Our Lady's apparitions and their messages everywhere, but are clueless about the Scriptures, the Catechism and the fundamental mysteries of their faith.

Mary and her Rosary have for centuries been the great school for seeing Christ and contemplating his mystery. On this particular day, all of us were simply entering this great school once again, in communion with so many men and women before us to learn to see Jesus and thus arrive at the Fatima messages of prayer, penance and conversion.

The conclusion I came to at the end of the day, is that through these messages, God is not only seeking messengers of prayer and penance today in our world, but strong witnesses. Men and women with courage, a depth of faith, with the credibility to touch hearts and open them to conversion in His Church, the Sacrament of love, mercy and salvation in the world.

Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria

Fatima Angel's Prayer

With the Blessed Sacrament suspended in the air, the angel at Fatima prostrated himself and recited the prayer:

"O most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly.

I offer you the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the Tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference by which He is offended.

By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners."

A Day With Mary

On 13 May 2017, the Ordinariate Parish of the Most Holy Family hosted "A Day with Mary" in Cowwarr. This day marked the 100th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima. The theme of the day was "Our Lady, Queen of the Holy Rosary". Fr Ken Clark gave two talks during the day. Following are some points I made in my notes while listening to the talks:

- We forget the apparitions of the angel prior to Our Lady's. The angel prostrated himself before the Blessed Sacrament and prayed. The children, being children, did the same. We must learn to follow the same way. We must acknowledge Christ in the sacrament of the altar.
- In all the tabernacles of the world, God resides. Give him his due honour.
- When I was Anglican, I thought all Catholics pray the rosary. Since being a Catholic priest, I realise how few pray the rosary!
- So much is written and people get confused about the messages. It's hard to understand how we, with the sacrifice of a sore finger for example, can help in the overall salvation of the world.
- We must unite our pain, our small sacrifice, to the pain of Christ.
- Offer sacrifice. Tell Our Lady: "I'm sorry for the blasphemies against you and all the sacrileges against you."
- The messages of Fatima are relatively simple. We have trouble doing them because we don't like to be obedient. We like to think we're all grown up.
- Fundamental to the message of Fatima is that we must pray the rosary daily in reparation for our sin and the sins of the whole world.
- Make sacrifice – in our situation, where we find it. Not big, just little. Offer up arthritis pain, things we don't like doing, mundane daily tasks.
- Do penance. Not for oneself but for millions who are doomed to Hell unless we do something about it.
- Unite your prayers with self-denial.
- Hell is the destination of all who commit mortal sin without repentance. It is a place we choose; a place where we are separated from God; where we are still loved, but we don't know it.
- Mary is the perfect disciple, the Living Tabernacle, the Holy of Holies. If we do nothing except imitate her faith and obedience to what her Son has asked her to do, then we walk in the path of God.
- Peter said we live in troubled times. Pope Pius X said the world is moving away from Christ. All down the ages the world has done what it likes. We are to pray for the world to be converted.
- God's plan at Fatima was to point out the destination of those who do not believe, and show us the way to save them.
- God made us out of love and wants us to be with him.
- The call of Fatima: Pray the rosary. Do penance. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Pray for all to be converted. Five First Saturdays.
- The Five First Saturdays is in reparation for offenses against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It entails: Holy Communion on the first Saturday of five consecutive months; Confession within 8 days either side; say the rosary and meditate for 15 minutes on the mysteries.
- If we pray the rosary and do the Five First Saturdays, the world will improve.
- Fatima is a call to love.
- If we want the world to change, if we want what God wants, it has to start with us.
- Holiness spreads. We must be true to what God has called us to be. Be obedient.
- What are you doing? Praying. Who are you praying for? Sinners. How? The rosary.

The Day with Mary also included Confessions, Mass, the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, a procession with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima around the grounds of Cowwarr parish and the crowning of the statue. The Day with Mary will be an annual event hosted by the Ordinariate parish and everyone is most welcome.

Ed.

Hours of Eucharistic Adoration

in Gippsland

Bass	Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Bairnsdale	1 st Friday after 9.10am Mass
Cowwarr-Heyfield	1 st Friday alternately: Cwr 7.30pm–8.30pm Heyfield 10.00am – 4.30pm
Cowwarr Ord.	Wednesday (Low Mass 10am) 10.30 – 11.00am
Churchill	Saturday (9.30am Mass) 10.00am – 11.00am
Cranbourne	Fri & Sat in church: (9.30 Mass) 10am – 11am Adoration Chapel accessible 24 hours by PIN available at parish office.
Drouin	Thursday 10am – 11.00am First Fri 4pm–8pm (every 2 nd month, Dec on)
Lakes Entrance	Friday 9.30am – 11am
Maffra	Wednesday (5pm Mass) – 6pm
Moe	Wednesday (9am Mass) 9.30am – 10.30am
Morwell	Friday 2pm – 6pm (Sacred Heart Church)
Orbost	Wednesday (9.30am Mass) 10am – 11am
Rosedale	First Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Sale	Friday 11.30am – 12pm First Friday 11.30am – 4pm
Trafalgar	Wed & First Sat: (9.30am Mass) –10.45am
Traralgon	Wednesday 11am – 12 noon
Warragul	Saturday 10.00am – 11.00am First Fri 4pm–8pm (every 2 nd month, Jan on)
Wonthaggi	First Friday 7.00pm – 8.00pm

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!

Pope John Paul II

Never Alone

Pope Francis, General Audience 26-04-2017

In his journey on earth, man is never alone. The Christian especially never feels abandoned, because Jesus assures us that He does not only wait for us at the end of our long journey, but that He accompanies us in every one of our days.

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 find us on  facebook

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The purpose of ITD is to provide a forum for those who:

- no longer have a voice in Catholic Life, and other diocesan newspapers,
- 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. There is no guarantee that every letter will be published, and we reserve the right to edit letters. Name and contact details must accompany letters, however, if there is sufficient reason, anonymity will be preserved when publishing. Letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of ITD.

The Humility of Jesus

St Teresa of Calcutta

The humility of Jesus can be seen in the crib, in the exile to Egypt, in the hidden life, in the inability to make people understand Him, in the desertion of His apostles, in the hatred of His persecutors, in all the terrible suffering and death of His Passion, and now in His permanent state of humility in the tabernacle, where He has reduced Himself to such a small particle of bread that the priest can hold Him with two fingers. The more we empty ourselves, the more room we give God to fill us.