

# ***Into the Deep***

Issue 204

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

May 2020

## **Prayers to Our Lady for the Month of May**

**Letter of Pope Francis to the Faithful, for the Month of May 2020**

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone. [See p.2 – Ed.]

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

### **Not Our Own Ability**

**Pope Francis, Angelus Address, 08-03-2020**

We have not been to Mount Tabor, we have not seen with our eyes the face of Jesus shining like the sun. However, the Word of Salvation has also been given to us, faith has been given and we have experienced, in different ways, the joy of meeting with Jesus. Jesus too says to us: "Stand up and do not be afraid" (Mt 17:7). In this world, marked by selfishness and greed, the light of God is clouded by everyday concerns. We often say: I don't have time to pray, I am not able to carry out a service in the parish, to respond to the requests of others ... But we must not forget that the Baptism and Confirmation we received made us witnesses, not because of our ability, but by the gift of the Spirit.

Zenit.org 08-03-2020 [Translation by Zenit]

### **The Surest Proof**

**Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher of the Pontifical Household, Good Friday Homily 2020**

The cross of Christ has changed the meaning of pain and human suffering – of every kind of suffering, physical and moral. It is no longer punishment, a curse. It was redeemed at its root when the Son of God took it upon himself.

What is the surest proof that the drink someone offers you is not poisoned? It is if that person drinks from the same cup before you do.

This is what God has done: on the cross, he drank, in front of the whole world, the cup of pain down to its dregs. This is how he showed us it is not poisoned, but that there is a pearl at the bottom of it.

Zenit.org 10-04-2020

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## **First Prayer** [see Pope Francis' letter to the faithful, p.1]

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

*We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God;  
Do not despise our petitions in our necessities,  
but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

## **Second Prayer** [see Pope Francis' letter to the faithful, p.1]

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust. Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus. Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

# Betrayal

**Pope Francis, Palm Sunday Homily 2020**

Betrayal. Jesus suffered betrayal by the disciple who sold him and by the disciple who denied him. He was betrayed by the people who sang hosanna to him and then shouted: "Crucify him!" He was betrayed by the religious institution that unjustly condemned him and by the political institution that washed its hands of him. We can think of all the small or great betrayals that we have suffered in life. It is terrible to discover that a firmly placed trust has been betrayed. From deep within our heart a disappointment surges up that can even make life seem meaningless. This happens because we were born to be loved and to love, and the most painful thing is to be betrayed by someone who promised to be loyal and close to us. We cannot even imagine how painful it was for God who *is* love.

Zenit.org 05-04-2020

## REST IN PEACE

We pray for the soul of Gwen Bradley (late of Chatswood, NSW) subscriber of ITD, who died last year. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## Joy at Cardinal Pell's Release

You are surely receiving lots of emails with people expressing their joy at the release of Cardinal Pell. We are witnessing the power of the devil, who will stop at nothing to destroy Christ's good men only to fail at the end. I imagine that this good man will continue to gain many graces for his country – which are badly needed. All our prayers have been answered.

My son gave me instructions as to how I could watch the Cardinal Pell interview on Sky. It was wonderful to see him a free man. Please God he will be permitted to live out his days in peace.

It may be interesting to observe how many relaxed Australians return to church as a result of his wonderful example.

**Pat Ryan, London, United Kingdom**

# ITD Magnified

I am now blind so you can imagine how much I can appreciate the large clear print of Into the Deep. With the help of a powerful magnifying glass I am blessed to be able to read the best publication I can have delivered to my farm near Bendigo. We are fast becoming a suburb of Bendigo, as elderly farmers do not have grandchildren interested in dairying, grazing sheep and beef cattle and racing horses. Our halls are seldom used as the police wait to book those who have imbibed liquor – a beverage favoured by most people. I have been a total abstainer since I became a Child of Mary in the Carmelite parish of Middle Park. I grew up helping Dad in the Warrandyte bakery. Enclosed is a small cheque for ITD. May God reward you.

**Audrey Drechsler, Sedgwick, Victoria**

## Thanks

We wish to inform you of our new email address. Thanks for sending Into the Deep – always a good informative read.

**Tony Ryan, Tamborine Mountain, Queensland**

## COVID-19: Philippines

**Asking Priests to be Visible**

A Catholic diocese in central Luzon, Philippines is asking authorities to allow priests their sacramental duties amid the enhanced community quarantine, according to CBCP News.

Bishop Ruperto Santos of Balanga said priests need to do everything to remain close to the faithful. "We are committed to go to hospitals for sick calls, to do funerals and to bless urns," Santos said. He stressed that the diocese is committed to assist the sick, without complicating the task of the authorities. "We appeal and asked that our priests be given quarantine pass in order for them to go around the parishes," he said. ... "Our priests here are mandated to go out to help and be of service especially to the elderly. I asked them to be visible," Santos said. ...

The bishop and his clergy have earlier agreed to donate their monthly allowances to help to their personnel and other people during the crisis.

Zenit.org 17-04-2020

# Take Her To Yourself

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher of the Papal Household, in his fourth Lenten Sermon 2020

**“Woman, Behold Your Son!” - Mary, the Mother of Believers**

We must imitate John by taking Mary into our lives from this moment on. That is all there is to it.

“The disciple took her to himself”. We don’t think enough of the significance of these few words. They contain information of great importance, which also has an historical basis, as they were written by the person involved. Mary passed the last years of her life with John. What the Fourth Gospel says of Mary at Cana in Galilee and beneath the cross was written by someone who actually lived in the same house, and it would be impossible not to acknowledge the close relationship, if not the same identity, that existed between the disciple Jesus loved and the author of the Fourth Gospel. The words “and the Word became flesh,” were written by someone living under the same roof as Mary, in whose womb this miracle had been fulfilled, or at least by someone who knew her and lived in the same environment with her.

Who can tell what it meant to the disciple Jesus loved to have Mary with him in his home day and night, to eat with her, to have her listen to him when he spoke to his disciples, to celebrate the mystery of the Lord with her? Is it credible that Mary lived within the circle of the disciple Jesus loved without having had the slightest influence on the slow, intense, and thorough work of meditation that went into the compilation of the Fourth Gospel? It seems that in ancient times Origen at least sensed the secret that lies behind this fact, to which scholars and critics of the Fourth Gospel and those researching its sources usually give no consideration. In fact, Origen wrote: “John’s is the first flowering of the Gospels, and anyone who had not rested his head on the heart of Jesus and had not been given Mary as his mother could not grasp its meaning and depth.” ...

We can now ask ourselves what it would actually mean for us to take Mary into our homes. I think this is the right place to mention Louis de Montfort’s sober and fruitful spirituality on entrusting ourselves to Mary. It consists in doing all one’s actions through Mary, with Mary, in Mary, and for Mary, so as to enable us to do them with greater perfection through Jesus, with Jesus, in Jesus, and for Jesus.

We must deliver ourselves to the spirit of Mary to be moved and influenced by it in the manner she chooses. We must put ourselves and leave ourselves in her virginal hands, like a tool in the grasp of a workman, like a lute in the hands of a skillful player. We must lose ourselves, and abandon ourselves to her, like a stone one throws into the sea. This must be done simply and in an instant, by one glance of the mind, by one little movement of the will, or even verbally. (True Devotion to Mary, n. 259) ...

With Paul, and more than Paul, she can truly say, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Cor 11:1). In fact, she is our model and teacher simply because she is the perfect disciple and imitator of Christ.

In a spiritual sense, this is what taking Mary means: taking her as companion and counselor, aware that she knows better than we do God’s wishes for us. If we learn to consult Mary and listen to her in all things, she will really become our incomparable teacher in God’s ways, guiding our inner selves without the din of words.

Zenit.org 03-04-2020

## COVID-19: U.S. & Canada

### Consecration to Our Lady

Archbishop José H. Gomez of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has announced that the U.S. bishops will join the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on May 1 in renewing the consecrations of the two nations to the care of our Blessed Mother.

Zenit.org 24-04-2020

## COVID-19: Italy

### Entrusted to the Mother of God

Taking up the proposal and request of many of the faithful, the Italian Episcopal Conference entrusts the entire country to the protection of the Mother of God as a sign of salvation and of hope. It will do so on Friday, May 1.

Zenit.org 22-04-2020

## Just Getting Older (4)- Finding the Right Way

The gift of years contains freedom from old ties, but responsibility for new ones. It holds joy and pain, laughter and tears, success and defeat, triumph and disaster. Youth and age are not dates in time but states of mind. Come to think of it, time tells me that our duty is not to add years to our lives but to add life to our years. Time may wrinkle the skin, but worry, doubt, hate and the loss of ideals wrinkle the soul. Fears, not years, bow the head; whether we are seventy or seventeen, a sense of wonder of life keeps us young!

The Lord tells us not to be anxious about our life, what we shall eat or what we shall drink etc. But becoming old can be a real burden. It means difficulties, pains, worries. We have to try to cope with sickness and afflictions. We have to guard ourselves against spiritual impotence. We are reduced in our skilfulness; and the flexibility of earlier times is now mostly in the mind.

Still we keep on living. For us too, the Bible quotation counts: work as long as there is daylight, because the hour will come when we can no longer do so. However, all those problems and burdens can very much prevent us from contemplating our eternal salvation in a sensible and well-considered manner. We must ask the Lord to please help us to find the right way.

**Bert Van Galen, Mowbray, Tasmania**

## COVID-19: Poland

### Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

"This Sunday we will celebrate the Feast of the Divine Mercy. I invite you to a special prayer on this day, at 3p.m., with the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy for an end of the epidemic,..." said the spokesman of the Polish Bishops' Conference, Fr Paweł Rytel-Andrianik. ...

Fr Rytel-Andrianik also invited people to read St Faustina's "Diary" on the occasion of the Feast of the Divine Mercy. "To this simple and humble nun, Jesus revealed Himself with a message of mercy to the whole world. In the "Diary" we find words of hope even for the greatest sinners and people lost in life. This message is valid for today,..." he said.

Zenit.org 18-04-2020

## God is on Our Side

**Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher of the Pontifical Household, Good Friday Homily 2020**

God is our ally, not the ally of the virus! He himself says in the Bible, "I have...plans for your welfare and not for woe" (Jer 29:11). If these scourges were punishments of God, it would not be explained why they strike equally good and bad, and why the poor usually bring the worst consequences of them. Are they more sinners than others?

No! The one who cried one day for Lazarus' death cries today for the scourge that has fallen on humanity. Yes, God "suffers", like every father and every mother. When we will find out this one day, we will be ashamed of all the accusations we made against him in life. God participates in our pain to overcome it. "Being supremely good," – wrote St Augustine – "God would not allow any evil in his works, unless in his omnipotence and goodness, he is able to bring forth good out of evil."

Zenit.org 10-04-2020

**"Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the risen Christ."**

**St Teresa of Calcutta**

## COVID-19: Italy

### Bishops Protest Mass Ban

The Italian Bishops' Conference has formally protested the Italian government's decision to keep the ban on public Masses throughout the country, as it revealed parts of its 'phase two' plan last evening, April 26, 2020, in a televised press conference. "The Italian Bishops cannot accept to see the exercise of freedom of worship compromised," they respond, in their statement of protest, reacting to the government essentially saying no Masses with faithful before May 18th, as various other restrictions are being lifted sooner. "It should be clear to all," they continue, "that the commitment to the service of the poor, so significant in this emergency, stems from a faith that must be able to be nourished at its sources, in particular the sacramental life."

Zenit.org 27-04-2020

# We Expect More

Many old fashioned Catholics are suffering. What has happened to us? I truly believe Christ will never abandon us, but I wonder if our Shepherds fully appreciate how we feel.

The clergy should overcome all barriers to save a man's soul. Who in their right minds would suggest to a dying man in imminent danger of death and obviously suffering from lack of breath, that he telephone the clergy to have a final chat. Such a suggestion shows a failure to understand the gravity of the situation we encounter.

We are seeking a cure for Covid19 which is causing thousands of deaths. However, millions of people are relentlessly killing unborn babies in contradiction to God's command. They pray, 'Lord, spare our lives but permit us to continue to destroy millions of unborn babies'.

I doubt that the hierarchy have given sufficient thought to the current crisis. Priests and liberal bishops have abandoned their vocation while staying in office.

As we say in business, "All problems are solutions in disguise". Let me suggest one possible solution. Why not approach the enclosed monasteries to seek priestly volunteers to accept the role of hospital chaplain? Men have volunteered for dangerous assignments during the wars. Why should today be different? All they need is the appropriate safety clothing and a secure dwelling. These courageous men could take up residence in a caravan in the hospital grounds adjacent to a hospital entrance/exit, so that he would not break quarantine and could not conceivably contaminate anyone. Why do we expect much more from the health workers and from hospital staff than from our validly ordained shepherds?

**Pat Ryan, London, United Kingdom**

## U.S. Bishops Call for Ethical Vaccines

Four bishop chairmen of committees for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have urged Dr. Stephen M. Hahn, Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to ensure that vaccines for the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) are developed ethically and are free from any connection to the exploitation of abortion.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City...; Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City...; Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend...; and Bishop John F. Doerfler of Marquette...signed the letter to the FDA Commissioner. They were joined by the leaders of many healthcare, bioethics, and pro-life organizations.

The letter expressed strong support for efforts to develop an effective, safe, and widely available vaccine as quickly as possible, but also strongly urged that the federal government "ensure that fundamental moral principles are followed in the development of such vaccines, most importantly, the principle that human life is sacred and should never be exploited."

The letter noted that "among the dozens of vaccines currently in development, some are being produced using old cell lines that were created from the cells of aborted babies." Furthermore, "there is no need to use ethically problematic cell lines to produce a COVID vaccine or any vaccine, as other cell lines or processes that do not involve cells from abortions are available and are regularly being used," the signers stated. "It is critically important that Americans have access to a vaccine that is produced ethically: no American should be forced to choose between being vaccinated against this potentially deadly virus and violating his or her conscience."

Zenit.org 18-04-2020

**"In trial or difficulty I have recourse to Mother Mary,  
whose glance alone is enough to dissipate every fear."**

**St Thérèse of Lisieux**

# The Mystery of the Ascension

Pope Benedict XVI, Ascension Day 2009

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

With these words, Jesus took his leave of the Apostles... Immediately afterwards the sacred Author adds that "as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight". This is the mystery of the Ascension that we are celebrating today.

But what do the Bible and the Liturgy wish to tell us by saying that Jesus "was lifted up"? We cannot understand the meaning of these words from a single text or from a single book of the New Testament but rather by listening attentively to the whole of Sacred Scripture. In fact the verb "to lift up" was originally used in the Old Testament and refers to royal enthronement.

Thus Christ's Ascension means in the first place the enthronement of the Crucified and Risen Son of Man, the manifestation of God's kingship over the world.

However, there is an even deeper meaning that is not immediately perceptible. In the passage from the Acts of the Apostles it is said first that Jesus was "lifted up" (v.9) and then it says "taken up" (v.11). The event is not described as a journey to on high but rather as an action of the power of God who introduces Jesus into the space of closeness to the Divine.

The presence of the cloud that "took him out of their sight" (v.9), recalls a very ancient image of Old Testament theology and integrates the account of the Ascension into the history of God with Israel, from the cloud of Sinai and above the tent of the Covenant in the desert, to the luminous cloud on the mountain of the Transfiguration.

To present the Lord wrapped in clouds calls to mind once and for all the same mystery expressed in the symbolism of the phrase, "seated at the right hand of God". In Christ ascended into Heaven, the human being has entered into intimacy with God in a new and unheard-of way; man henceforth finds room in God for ever. "Heaven": this word Heaven does not indicate a place above the stars but something far more daring and sublime: it indicates Christ himself, the divine Person who welcomes humanity fully and for ever, the One in whom God and man are inseparably united for ever. Man's being in God, this is Heaven.

And we draw close to Heaven, indeed, we enter Heaven to the extent that we draw close to Jesus and enter into communion with him. For this reason today's Solemnity of the Ascension invites us to be in profound communion with the dead and Risen Jesus, invisibly present in the life of each one of us.

In this perspective we understand why the Evangelist Luke says that after the Ascension the disciples returned to Jerusalem "with great joy" (24:52). Their joy stems from the fact that what had happened was not really a separation, the Lord's permanent absence: on the contrary, they were then certain that the Crucified-Risen One was alive and that in him God's gates, the gates of eternal life, had been opened to humanity for ever.

In other words, his Ascension did not imply a temporary absence from the world but rather inaugurated the new, definitive and insuppressible form of his presence by virtue of his participation in the royal power of God.

It was to be up to them, the disciples emboldened by the power of the Holy Spirit, to make his presence visible by their witness, preaching and missionary zeal.

The Solemnity of the Lord's Ascension must also fill us with serenity and enthusiasm, just as it did the Apostles who set out again from the Mount of Olives "with great joy". Like them, we too, accepting the invitation of the "two men in dazzling apparel", must not stay gazing up at the sky, but, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit must go everywhere and proclaim the saving message of Christ's death and Resurrection. His very words, with which the Gospel according to St Matthew ends, accompany and comfort us: "and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28:19).

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# Be Careful Not to Virtualise the Church

Pope Francis, Morning Mass, 17-04-2020

[The] familiarity of Christians with the Lord is always of community. Yes, it's intimate, it's personal but in community. A familiarity without community, a familiarity without Bread, a familiarity without the Church, without the people, without the Sacraments is dangerous. It could become – let's say – a gnostic familiarity, a familiarity only for myself, detached from the people of God. The Apostles' familiarity with the Lord was always that of community, it was always at table, sign of community; it was always with the Sacrament, with the Bread.

I say this because someone made me reflect on the danger that this moment that we are living, this pandemic that has made all of us communicate, including religiously, through the media, through the means of communication... We are together, but not together. ... And this isn't the Church: this is the Church of a difficult situation, which the Lord permits, but the ideal of the Church is always with the people and with the Sacraments – always. ...

[We must] be careful not to virtualize the Church, to virtualize the Sacraments, to virtualize the People of God. The Church, the Sacraments, the People of God are concrete. It's true that at this moment we must have this familiarity with the Lord in this way, but we must come out of the tunnel, not stay there. And this is the familiarity of the Apostles: not gnostic, not virtualized, not egotistical for each one of them, but a concrete familiarity in the people – familiarity with the Lord in daily life, familiarity with the Lord in the Sacraments, in the midst of the People of God.

Zenit.org 17-04-2020

## Blessed are the Pure in Heart

Pope Francis, General Audience 01-04-2020

Today, let us read together the sixth Beatitude which promises the vision of God and has *purity of heart* as a condition. ... Herein lies the wisdom of this Beatitude: in order to contemplate it, we need to enter within ourselves and make room for God because, as Saint Augustine says, God is "more inward than my innermost self". In order to see God, there is neither the need to change eyeglasses or vantage point, nor to change the theological authors who teach the path: we need to free the heart from its deception. This is the only path.

This is a decisive maturity: when we realize that our worst enemy is often hidden within our heart. The most noble battle is the one against the inner deception that creates our sins. ... It is thus important to understand what *purity of heart* is. In order to do so, we should remember that, for the Bible, the heart does not consist only in feelings, but rather it is a human being's most intimate place, the inner space where people are themselves. ...

A pure heart lives in the presence of the Lord, preserving in the heart what is worthy of the relationship with him. Only in this way can one possess an intimate life that is *unified*, linear and unwinding.

A purified heart is, therefore, the result of a process that implies liberation and renunciation. Those who are pure of heart are not born that way but rather they have experienced an inner simplification, learning to renounce the evil within oneself, which the Bible calls circumcision of the heart.

This inner purification implies recognition of the part of the heart that is under the influence of evil – "You know Father, I feel this way, I think this way, I see this way and this is bad": recognizing the bad part, the part that is clouded by evil – in order to learn the art of always allowing ourselves to be trained and guided by the Holy Spirit. The journey from a sick heart, from a sinful heart, from a heart that cannot see things well because it is in sin, to the fullness of the light of the heart, is the work of the Holy Spirit. He is the one who guides us to take this journey. Through this journey of the heart, we can achieve "seeing God". ...

Let us not be afraid, let us open the doors of our heart to the Holy Spirit so that he may purify us and lead us forward in this journey towards full joy.

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# The Third Pillar – The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments deal with how we *live* the Faith (professed in the Creed – the First Pillar), and the morality that is required to be a disciple of Christ. Through the Church's seven Sacraments (the Second Pillar), God has given us the necessary grace to carry out these Commandments (the Third Pillar).

But before I address this third pillar of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, I would like to point out that there are many people who have been baptised Catholic but lead lives entirely divorced from the Church. Many of them are unaware that through the Sacrament of Baptism we have received a new nature, existence and life in Christ. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, our lost innocence, integrity, holiness and divine life has been restored. As a result, we cannot continue to live according to our old, fallen, sinful nature. Through Christ's paschal mystery we have been redeemed, and have been incorporated into his Body, the Church. Our lives are no longer our own. We live and move and have our being in Christ, the Head of that Body. As God's anointed and chosen children, we have been set aside for his purpose to be a light for the nations and salt for the earth. In order to effectively be these witnesses, we have to obey the Ten Commandments and take God seriously.

The Ten Commandments of the Old Covenant are summed up in the greatest commandment of the New Covenant: To love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love thy neighbour as thyself. Also known as the Decalogue, this pillar deals with what is essentially required to first of all, love God with all one's heart, soul, mind and strength, and secondly, to love one's neighbour as oneself.

The first three of these commandments concern the love of God while the other seven deal with the love of neighbour. The morality of the Ten Commandments is really a teaching about the nature of love. As the first letter of John (5:3-5) points out, "loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not difficult."

When meditating on these commandments it is always good to remember that God does not command and demand anything of us that he himself has not done through his only begotten Son. Through the mystery of the Incarnation, he humbly and willingly came down to meet us and made himself our neighbour, and through his sacrifice on the cross, manifested how much he loves us. In essence it teaches us that God is love, and that this love has definitively and visibly been revealed and made tangible in his only begotten Son. He is the incarnate love of God, and the Ten Commandments are merely an unfolding of the ways of this love.

When we think about it, following Christ's double commandment is simply carrying out the very mission of our being which God intended for us when he created us in his image and likeness in the beginning, which is to love our neighbour in union with His love.

**Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria**

## The Decalogue

### Catechism of the Catholic Church

**2075** "What good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" - "If you would enter into life, keep the commandments" (Mt 19:16-17).

**2076** By his life and by his preaching Jesus attested to the permanent validity of the Decalogue.

**2078** In fidelity to Scripture and in conformity with Jesus' example, the tradition of the Church has always acknowledged the primordial importance and significance of the Decalogue.

**2080** The Decalogue contains a privileged expression of the natural law. It is made known to us by divine revelation and by human reason.

**2082** What God commands he makes possible by his grace.

## Remember

### Catechism of the Catholic Church

**1691** "Christian, recognize your dignity and, now that you share in God's own nature, do not return to your former base condition by sinning. Remember who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Never forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of the Kingdom of God." - **St Leo the Great**

# Special Indulgences – Correction

A friend sent me a download of the full Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary of 19.3.20, regarding special indulgences for the faithful in the present pandemic crisis. It includes a devotion option, 'Reading the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour' which is absent from the fifth paragraph of your presentation of "Covid-19: Special Indulgences" in the latest ITD (April ITD, p.11). Oversights can easily hit the best of us. May I suggest you send this important option to all your readers as soon as possible.

**Peter Phillips, Springvale, Victoria**

My apologies for this oversight. I went back to the "Translation of the unabridged Decree" that I quoted from (Zenit.org 20-04-2020) and there was no reference to the reading of Scriptures. However, the English translation on the Vatican website (www.vatican.va under Roman Curia/Tribunals/Apostolic Penitentiary) does indeed have the reference included as follows (my underline):

Moreover, this Apostolic Penitentiary willingly grants a *Plenary Indulgence* under the same conditions on the occasion of the current world epidemic, also to the faithful who offer a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or Eucharistic Adoration, or the reading of the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour, or the recitation of the Holy Rosary, or the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, or the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief to those who are afflicted and eternal salvation to those the Lord has called to Himself.

**Ed.**

## COVID-19: Vietnam

### Masses Resume

Given the excellent management of the coronavirus emergency and the limited spread of the disease, the Catholic community in Vietnam has been able to resume celebrating the Eucharist.

As Agenzia Fides learned, on April 24, the Bishop of Vinh, Mgr. Alphonse Nguyễn Huu Long, allowed the priests to resume celebrating Mass "to meet the spiritual needs of Catholics and the strong desire for the Eucharist". So far the services were only online, but since April 25, explained the Prelate, three dioceses in Vietnam were able to return to a sort of "semi-normalcy" after the government loosened anti-coronavirus measures. However, the Bishop of Vinh asked the priests to celebrate short Masses, with a small presence of the faithful and to respect social distancing, also limiting the celebration of two Masses on weekdays and four on Sundays.

Zenit.org 28-04-2020

## COVID-19: England

### Prayers before Applause

Acknowledging the community solidarity behind the 'Clap for our Carers' initiative that has seen millions applauding NHS staff and health workers from their doors and windows for the past four weeks, Cardinal Vincent Nichols said: "Now what we want to do, is add to that public applause, the practice of public prayer. So every Thursday at 7 o'clock, a bishop will celebrate Mass in one of the cathedrals for the care workers."

Encouraging Catholics to follow Mass and pray before the 8pm applause, Cardinal Nichols said: "Use that time before 8 o'clock on a Thursday to offer your prayers of thanksgiving for these generous, courageous people, for their support – their encouragement – [and pray] that God will sustain them in this great work that they're doing. "We applaud, but we pray and we pray fervently for them. May God bless them all."

Zenit.org 22-04-2020

## A Moment in History

### Pope Benedict XVI, World Youth Day 20-08-2011

Dear friends, may no adversity paralyze you. Be afraid neither of the world, nor of the future, nor of your weakness. The Lord has allowed you to live in this moment of history so that, by your faith, his name will continue to resound throughout the world.

www.vatican.va

# Every Person Suffers

**Cardinal George Pell's Easter message, The Australian, 11-04-2020, after being released from jail 07-04-2020 having had his convictions quashed by the High Court**

Every person suffers. None escapes all the time. Everyone is confronted with a couple of questions. What should I do in this situation? Why is there so much evil and suffering? And why did this happen to me? Why the coronavirus pandemic?

The ancient Greeks and Romans thought the gods were capricious, liable to punish without reason. ... The atheists today believe that the universe, including us, is the product of blind chance, that no transcendent Intelligence exists to help explain our DNA sequence, the 10,000 nerves connected to an eye, the genius of Shakespeare, Michelangelo, Beethoven and Albert Einstein. Another option is a radical agnosticism. We don't know and perhaps we don't want to know. Here the agnostics can battle against fate with a Stoic dignity or turn furious, journey into the night "raging against the light".

Easter provides the Christian answer to suffering and living. Christians are monotheists who developed from within the Jewish revelation; they too follow the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They believe that nearly 2000 years ago a young Jew was crucified on a hilltop in Jerusalem, one Friday afternoon, despised and rejected. Everyone saw him die, while a limited number, those with faith, saw him after a miraculous bodily resurrection on the next Sunday. The claim is not that Jesus' soul goes marching on. It was a return of his entire person from death, breaking the rules of health and physics, as Christians believe this young man was the only Son of God, divine, the Messiah. Jesus' bones will never be found. To the dismay of many this was a Messiah, who was not a great monarch like David or Solomon, but Isaiah's suffering servant, who redeems us, enables us to receive forgiveness and enter into a happy eternity. ...

My generation and those younger are passing through a unique moment. It is not unprecedented. We were not alive for the Spanish flu pandemic after World War I, somewhat comparable so far, and we have heard of the terrible Black Death in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, where one-third of the population died in some places. What is new is our capacity to fight the disease intelligently, mitigate the spread.

The sexual abuse crisis damaged thousands of victims. From many points of view the crisis is also bad for the Catholic Church, but we have painfully cut out a moral cancer and this is good. So too some would see COVID-19 as a bad time for those who claim to believe in a good and rational God, the Supreme Love and Intelligence, the Creator of the universe. And it is a mystery; all suffering, but especially the massive number of deaths through plagues and wars. But Christians can cope with suffering better than the atheists can explain the beauty and happiness of life.

And many, most understand the direction we are heading when it is pointed out that the only Son of God did not have an easy run and suffered more than his share. Jesus redeemed us and we can redeem our suffering by joining it to His and offering it to God.

I have just spent 13 months in jail for a crime I didn't commit, one disappointment after another. I knew God was with me, but I didn't know what He was up to, although I realised He has left all of us free. But with every blow it was a consolation to know I could offer it to God for some good purpose like turning the mass of suffering into spiritual energy.

The roots of our health services are deeply rooted in the Christian tradition of service, their continuing work of long hours and with a lively danger of infection. It wasn't like this in pagan Rome where Christians were unique because they stayed with their sick and nursed them in times of plague. Even Galen, the best known ancient physician, fled to his country estate during the plague.

Kiko Arguello, co-founder of the Neocatechumenal Way, claims that a fundamental difference between God-fearers and secularists today is found in the approach to suffering. Too often the irreligious want to eliminate the cause of the suffering, through abortion, euthanasia, or exclude it from sight, leaving our loved ones unvisited in nursing homes. Christians see Christ in everyone who suffers – victims, the sick, the elderly – and are obliged to help.

That is part of the Easter message of the Risen Christ.

## Hours of Eucharistic Adoration

### in Gippsland

Bass	Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Bairnsdale	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday after 9.10am Mass
Heyfield	1 <sup>st</sup> Fridays 10am – 4.30pm
Cowwarr Ord.	Wednesday (Mass 10am) – 11am Thursday 6-7pm; 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday (Mass 6pm) – 9pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday (Mass 10am) – 11am
Churchill	Saturday (9.30am Mass) – 11am
Cranbourne	Fri & Sat in church: (9.30 Mass) – 11am Adoration Chapel accessible 24 hours by PIN available at parish office.
Drouin	Thursday 10am – 11am 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday 4pm–8pm (every 2 <sup>nd</sup> month, Dec on)
Lakes Entrance	Friday 9.30am – 11am
Maffra	Wednesday (5pm Mass) – 6pm
Moe	Wednesday (9am Mass) – 10.30am
Morwell	Friday 2pm - 6pm (Sacred Heart Church)
Orbost	Wednesday (9.30am Mass) – 11am
Rosedale	First Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Sale	Friday 11.30am–12pm; 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday till 4pm
Trafalgar	Wed & 1st Sat: (9.30am Mass) – 10.45am
Traralgon	Wednesday 11am – 12 noon
Warragul	Saturday 10am – 11am 1 <sup>st</sup> Fri 4pm–8pm (every 2 <sup>nd</sup> month, Jan on)
Wonthaggi	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday 7pm – 8pm

## The Consecration

### Catechism of the Catholic Church, n.1375

It is by the conversion of the bread and wine into Christ's body and blood that Christ becomes present in this sacrament [the Eucharist]. The Church Fathers strongly affirmed the faith of the Church in the efficacy of the Word of Christ and of the action of the Holy Spirit to bring about this conversion. Thus St John Chrysostom declares:

It is not man that causes the things offered to become the Body and Blood of Christ, but he who was crucified for us, Christ himself. The priest, in the role of Christ, pronounces these words, but their power and grace are God's. This is my body, he says. This word transforms the things offered.

And St Ambrose says about this conversion:

Be convinced that this is not what nature has formed, but what the blessing has consecrated. The power of the blessing prevails over that of nature, because by the blessing, nature itself is changed. ... Could not Christ's word, which can make from nothing what did not exist, change existing things into what they were not before? It is no less a feat to give things their original nature than to change their nature.

## Contact *Into the Deep*

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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.

## 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**