

# ***Into the Deep***

Issue 212

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## **Find Time**

**Pope Francis, Homily 01-01-2021**

What are we called to find at the beginning of this year? It would be good to find time for someone. Time is a treasure that all of us possess, yet we guard it jealously, since we want to use it only for ourselves. Let us ask for the grace to find time for God and for our neighbour – for those who are alone or suffering, for those who need someone to listen and show concern for them. If we can find time to give, we will be amazed and filled with joy, like the shepherds.

May Our Lady, who brought God into the world of time, help us to be generous with our time.

Holy Mother of God, to you we consecrate this New Year. You, who know how to cherish things in your heart, care for us, bless our time, and teach us to find time for God and for others. With joy and confidence, we acclaim you: Holy Mother of God! Amen.

Vatican.va

## **Basis for Our Joy**

**Pope Francis, Homily 06-01-2021**

Worldly joy is based on wealth, success or similar things, always with ourselves at the centre.

The joy of Christ's disciples, on the other hand, is based on the fidelity of God, whose promises never fail, whatever the crises we may face.

Vatican.va

## **Don't Wait**

**Pope Francis, Midnight Mass, 24-11-2019**

[Jesus] did not change history by pressuring anyone or by a flood of words, but by the gift of his life. He did not wait until we were good before he loved us, but gave himself freely to us. May we not wait for our neighbours to be good before we do good to them, for the Church to be perfect before we love her, for others to respect us before we serve them. Let us begin with ourselves.

Vatican.va

## **Don't Ignore Your Love Letter**

**Pope Francis, Homily for Sunday of the Word of God, 24-01-2021**

So dear brothers and sisters, let us not ignore God's word. It is a love letter, written to us by the One who knows us best. In reading it, we again hear his voice, see his face and receive his Spirit. That word brings us close to God.

Let us not keep it at arm's length, but carry it with us always, in our pocket, on our phone. Let us give it a worthy place in our homes. Let us set the Gospel in a place where we can remember to open it daily, perhaps at the beginning and at the end of the day, so that amid all those words that ring in our ears, there may also be a few verses of the word of God that can touch our hearts.

To be able to do this, let us ask the Lord for the strength to turn off the television and open the Bible, to turn off our cell phone and open the Gospel. During this liturgical year, we are reading Saint Mark, the simplest and the shortest of the Gospels. Why not read it at home too, even a brief passage each day. It will make us feel God's closeness to us and fill us with courage as we make our way through life.

Vatican.va

**All issues of *Into the Deep* are at [www.stoneswillshout.com](http://www.stoneswillshout.com)**

# Year of St Joseph

**Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* of The Holy Father Francis**

**on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church**

... After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. My Predecessors reflected on the message contained in the limited information handed down by the Gospels in order to appreciate more fully his central role in the history of salvation. Blessed Pius IX declared him "Patron of the Catholic Church", Venerable Pius XII proposed him as "Patron of Workers" and Saint John Paul II as "Guardian of the Redeemer". Saint Joseph is universally invoked as the "patron of a happy death". ...

**1.** The greatness of Saint Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. In this way, he placed himself, in the words of Saint John Chrysostom, "at the service of the entire plan of salvation". ...

Thanks to his role in salvation history, Saint Joseph has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people. This is shown by the countless churches dedicated to him worldwide, the numerous religious Institutes, Confraternities and ecclesial groups inspired by his spirituality and bearing his name, and the many traditional expressions of piety in his honour. Innumerable holy men and women were passionately devoted to him. ...

Every prayer book contains prayers to Saint Joseph. Special prayers are offered to him each Wednesday and especially during the month of March, which is traditionally dedicated to him.

[In a footnote, Pope Francis adds: Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds I have recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary. It expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph: "Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen."]

## Seven Sorrows and Joys of St Joseph

Pope Francis promulgated on 8<sup>th</sup> December last year that this year be the Year of St Joseph. One way that you may like to "do" something to honour him is found on page 7 of this week's Catholic Weekly (31<sup>st</sup> January) there is an article "Get Close to Joseph" by Steven Buhagiar (Team leader of the Archdiocesan Life, Marriage and Family Office). In this article he writes of a little-known devotion to St Joseph which will "assist greatly in coming to know this great saint and which, in its completion, will honour him greatly in this important year dedicated to him."

It is called the "Seven Sundays of Joseph Devotion" and consists on meditating on the 7 sorrows and the 7 joys of St Joseph over the 7 Sundays preceding his feast day on 19<sup>th</sup> March. 31<sup>st</sup> January would be the first Sunday. It is customary for participants to pray for specific intentions, trusting in his powerful intercession. While praying this we should "consider how St Joseph would have felt and acted in each situation having first read the accompanying scripture verse. They can then meditate on what the joy and sorrow teaches them about St Joseph and how it can be applied to living out of their own life."

The Seven Sorrows and Joys are:

31 Jan: Matthew 1:18-24. Sorrow - deciding to leave the Blessed Virgin. Joy - knowledge of the incarnation.

7 Feb: Luke 2:1-20. Sorrow - seeing Jesus born in poverty. Joy - the Angels announcing Jesus' birth.

14 Feb: Luke 2:21. Sorrow - Jesus' blood shed in the circumcision. Joy - Naming the child Jesus.

21 Feb: Luke 2:22-38. Sorrow - Simeon's prophesy. Joy - the salvation that Jesus will bring.

28 Feb: Matthew 2:13-15. Sorrow - the flight to Egypt. Joy - in the company of Jesus and Mary.

7 March: Matthew 2:19-23. Sorrow - the return from Egypt. Joy - told to go to Nazareth by the Angel.

14 March: Luke 2:41-51. Sorrow - losing the child Jesus. Joy - finding Him in the temple.

**Maureen Wright, Lurnea, New South Wales**

# In Time of Crisis

**Pope Francis, to Roman Curia 21-12-2020**

What should we do during a crisis? First, accept it as a time of grace granted us to discern God's will for each of us and for the whole Church. We need to enter into the apparent paradoxical notion that "when I am weak, then I am strong" (2Cor 12:10). We should keep in mind the reassuring words of Saint Paul to the Corinthians: "God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (1Cor 10:13). It is essential not to interrupt our dialogue with God, however difficult this may prove. Praying is not easy. We must not tire of praying constantly (cf. Lk 21:36; 1Thess 5:17).

We know of no other solution to the problems we are experiencing than that of praying more fervently and at the same time doing everything in our power with greater confidence. Prayer will allow us to "hope against all hope" (cf. Rom 4:18).

Zenit.org 21-12-2020

## Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joseph Vanjek, late of Geelong, Victoria, who was a long-time supporter and subscriber of Into the Deep.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Ed.

Ed.

# Random Questions

- I saw an article on protests against the death penalty in the U.S. There was a photo of protestors holding banners saying, "Execution is NOT the solution", and "All life is precious". I couldn't help thinking how those protestors could use the same banners protesting abortion. I wonder if they would?
- What does a flag mean anymore? The dreaded 'rainbow flag' is regularly placed alongside the Australian flag, and/or the Aboriginal flag and/or the Torres Strait islander flag at the bottom of various business and government emails, or in places of prominence on business doors and windows. The sexual appetite of a certain group of people has nothing to do with the national identity of a country, surely? In fact, the more flags we "include", to be "inclusive", the more people we actually exclude. Why don't they also have a flag to represent the Christians of Australia, the Jewish people, Muslims, the deaf people, and those with Down Syndrome, and every other conceivable group or minority that might feel excluded if they don't have a flag to symbolise how included they are in Australian life and government and employment?
- Why does every article about Covid vaccines have to be accompanied by a close-up photo of a massive needle being driven mercilessly into tender flesh? Don't they understand that there are some of us who are more fearful of the thought of a needle than a virus? (only kidding)

## Vatican modifies distribution of ashes for Ash Wednesday

**By Vatican News, 12-01-2021**

The health situation caused by Covid-19 continues to force changes on daily life, which are also reflected in the Church's sphere. Ahead of the beginning of Lent, on Wednesday, 17 February, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has published a note detailing how Catholic priests are to distribute ashes.

After blessing the ashes and sprinkling them with holy water in silence, the priest addresses those present, reciting once the formula found in the Roman Missal: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return".

At that point, the note continues, the priest "cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask, and distributes ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places."

He then sprinkles the ashes on each person's head "without saying anything."

[www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va)

# Cardinal Pell on Forgiveness

Zenit.org 17-12-2020 by Deborah Castellano Lubov

Cardinal George Pell has spoken to press about his new book and his unjust persecution. To present his *Prison Journal: The Cardinal Makes His Appeal*, published with Ignatius Press, written as a diary during the cardinal's more than 400 days in prison, prior to Australia's High Court, unanimously voting that he was innocent, a Zoom virtual meeting was held yesterday between Cardinal Pell, Zenit, and other journalists throughout the world. ...

Without giving his own speech, the Cardinal immediately made himself available to journalists' questions. ... ZENIT's Senior Vatican Correspondent recalled how in the journal he says: "The decision to forgive is a bit like the act of faith," noting it must be continuously nourished. She asked him his advice on how can one nourish forgiveness, and advice for those who likewise could be falsely accused who could struggle to forgive.

"First of all, you have to keep praying. Praying the breviary. Even going to Mass. The New Testament keeps needling away at us, much more than the Old Testament, reminding us of difficult challenges like the difficult challenge to forgive. I remember years and years ago from a marriage counseling meeting that one couple was talking about forgiveness between husband and wife. And they said the important step is to forgive, to make an act of will, to forgive. In many cases, the feelings can follow..."

He humorously recalled the words of Joyce Brothers, American psychologist and television personality, who said: "My husband and I have never considered divorce... murder sometimes, but never divorce."

"First you decide to forgive and then the feelings often follow. And every now and again, I feel a surge of animosity, and I suppose on that you have to clamp down on it."

"You cannot forgive without faith and you need to keep praying," he said.

## Life is Short

Pope Francis, Angelus Address 24-01-2021

For each one of us the time in which we are able to receive redemption is brief: it is the duration of our life in this world. It is brief. Perhaps it seems long. I remember that I went to administer the Sacraments, the Anointing of the Sick to a very good elderly man, very good, and in that moment, before receiving the Eucharist and the Anointing of the Sick, he told me this phrase: "My life flew by". This is how we, the elderly, feel, that life has passed away. It passes away. And life is a gift of God's infinite love, but is also the time to prove our love for Him. For this reason every moment, every instant of our existence is precious time to love God and to love our neighbour, and thereby enter into eternal life.

Vatican.va

"See the power of the priest! The tongue of the priest, and a piece of bread, makes God! That's more than creating the world!"

St John Vianney

## To Whom is Praise Helpful?

Pope Francis, General Audience, 13-01-2021

To whom is praise helpful? To us or to God? A text of the Eucharistic liturgy invites us to pray to God in this way, it says this: "Although you have no need of our praise, yet our thanksgiving is itself your gift, since our praises add nothing to your greatness, but profit us for salvation" (Roman Missal, Common Preface IV). By giving praise, we are saved.

The prayer of praise is helpful to us. The Catechism defines it this way: it "shares in the blessed happiness of the pure of heart who love God in faith before seeing him in glory" (no. 2639). Paradoxically it must be practised not only when life fills us with happiness, but above all in difficult moments, in moments of darkness when the path becomes an uphill climb. That too is the time for praise... Giving praise is like breathing pure oxygen: it purifies the soul, it makes you look far ahead, it does not leave you imprisoned in the difficult and dark moment of hardship. ... In difficult and dark moments, let us have the courage to say: "Blessed are you, O Lord".

Vatican.va

# A Midnight Mass Reflection

Right from the beginning of creation we were created for communion with God.

And since the Fall, God continues to invite the whole world back to this communion in his great holy family, the Catholic Church.

This divine desire of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to invite mankind into communion lies at the root of everything that exists. Nothing would exist apart from this desire, and the Church would have nothing to say, if God had not first expressed and announced it.

Christmas Midnight Mass is the celebration of the Trinitarian Mystery of the Incarnation, the incredible mystery of communion and love. This communion and love pervades the entire mystery of our faith and is alluded to and inscribed in the very mystery of the Incarnation, in the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us.

As I sat and sang carols and reflected on the relationship between the mystery of the Incarnation and the Mass we were about to celebrate, I was only too aware that God loved the world so much that he humbly chose to bring about its salvation through a little, helpless, weak baby, born in the abject poverty of a stable, in a feeding box, in the town of Bethlehem, which means house of bread.

Just think about it! As Pope John Paul II said: "The Son of God did not come in power and glory, as he will at the end of the world, but as a child, needy and poor. Fully sharing our human condition in all things but sin, he also took on the frailty and hope for the future which are part of being a child." (World Day of Peace 1996)

God who created everything through his Word, who has no need of anyone or anything, chose to come into the world as a totally dependent baby, to feed, forgive, heal and nourish us with the spiritual food of his most precious Body and Blood.

This is no coincidence! This baby, who over time grew in stature, would during his passion and death, tell us that he was "born for this, for this I came into the world". (Jn 18:37)

Earlier in John's Gospel (6:56-57), Jesus said, "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him." Basically telling us that he was born to die sacrificially!

Through the merits of his most precious death and passion, Jesus Christ has given me, an unworthy soul, the grace to eat his flesh and to drink his blood; so that "my sinful body may be made clean by His Body and my soul washed through His most precious Blood" (cf. Prayer of Humble Access, Ordinariate Rite), so that I could worthily be led into communion with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit and the whole Church.

It is absolutely amazing to believe that this little baby lying in a manger is the loving tenderness of the heart of our God, who not only has a place in it for me, but for the whole world. What an absolutely wonderful Christmas gift from God the Father, to fulfill his desire and honour his invitation! Words cannot capture or express my gratitude. All I can say is, "My God I believe, I adore and I love thee."

**Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria**

## Prayer of Trust and Confidence

**St Pio of Pietrelcina**

O Lord, we ask for a boundless confidence and trust in Your divine mercy, and the courage to accept the crosses and sufferings which bring immense goodness to our souls and that of Your Church.

Help us to love You with a pure and contrite heart, and to humble ourselves beneath Your cross, as we climb the mountain of holiness, carrying our cross that leads to heavenly glory.

May we receive You with great faith and love in Holy Communion, and allow You to act in us, as You desire, for Your greater glory.

O Jesus, most adorable heart and eternal fountain of Divine Love, may our prayer find favour before the Divine Majesty of Your Heavenly Father. Amen.

# Daily Mass Disappearing

Daily Catholics seem to encounter an increasing number of priests who feel entitled to a 'day off' each week. By this, they mean a day off from saying Mass.

A significant number of daily Catholics learned (and from priests) that the most important task of a priest is to say Mass. And the Church agrees:

"In the mystery of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, in which priests fulfill their greatest task, the work of our redemption is being constantly carried on; and hence the daily celebration of Mass is strongly urged, since even if there cannot be present a number of the faithful, it is still an act of Christ and of the Church."

(Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, 1965, n.13)

But what about those priests who prefer to celebrate Mass privately? What happens is that those parishioners who commit themselves to daily Mass must go elsewhere, perhaps considerable distances, on the priests' day off.

Some of us can recall times when priests never missed a morning Mass. In those days around 80% of Catholics practised their faith. Today the figure is not just smaller, but catastrophically so. I have seen no sign that anyone is at all concerned about the danger to souls. Perhaps there are two questions which need to be asked:

1. What is it about saying daily Mass which is so onerous that a priest must be relieved of it?
2. What other activity is to be substituted which is of greater value?

**Richard Stokes, Stanthorpe, Queensland**

# Seeking Guidance on Vaccines

Following is my letter emailed to His Grace, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, 17-12-2020:

As you must be aware, some of the Covid vaccines being trialled or issued are using the tissues of aborted (murdered) babies. I particularly note the Oxford vaccine which has the huge advantage of being able to be stored or transported at ordinary refrigerated temperatures rather than under super cooling.

This particular brand must be morally unacceptable to all Christians, and not having heard any public mention of this by any Christian source, I emailed the general secretary of the Australian Catholic bishops and requested guidance.

He replied promptly, saying that each bishop would attend to the matter in his own area. After some time I had heard of no such action from any bishops anywhere, therefore I requested the secretary to forward copies of my email to all our bishops. It seems that this request has been completely ignored.

I ask you whether this blackout was applied on the secretary's volition or at your direction? Here I remind you of your eight year record of complete silence in response to questions about the Catholic faith, which you seem to consider inconvenient.

As you will appreciate, the matter is of some urgency.

**Don Gaffney, Moorooka, Queensland**

*See page 11 of this issue of ITD for the answer from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Ed.*

# Dust Loved by God

**Pope Francis, Ash Wednesday 26-02-2020**

We begin the Lenten Season by receiving ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (cf. Gen 3:19). The dust sprinkled on our heads brings us back to earth; it reminds us that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We are weak, frail and mortal. Centuries and millennia pass and we come and go; before the immensity of galaxies and space, we are nothing. We are dust in the universe. Yet we are *dust loved by God*. It pleased the Lord to gather that dust in his hands and to breathe into it the breath of life (cf. Gen 2:7). We are thus a dust that is precious, destined for eternal life. We are the dust of the earth, upon which God has poured out his heaven, the dust that contains his dreams. We are God's hope, his treasure and his glory.

Ashes are thus a reminder of the direction of our existence: a passage *from dust to life*. We are dust, earth, clay, but if we allow ourselves to be shaped by the hands of God, we become something wondrous. More often than not, though, especially at times of difficulty and loneliness, we only see our dust! But the Lord encourages us: in his eyes, our littleness is of infinite value. So let us take heart: we were born to be loved; we were born to be children of God.

# Blessed Carlo Acutis:

## Millennial Generation has a Blessed

From an article by Angela Mengis Palleck, [Vaticannews.va](http://Vaticannews.va), 10-10-2020

Carlo Acutis was beatified on 10-10-2020. He was only 15 years old when he died in a hospital in Monza, Italy, in 2006, offering all his sufferings for the Church and for the Pope.



Carlo Acutis...was a normal, handsome and popular boy. A natural jokester who enjoyed making his classmates and teachers laugh. He loved playing soccer, video games, and had a sweet tooth. Carlo couldn't say "no" to Nutella or to ice cream. Putting on weight made him understand the need for self-control. It was one of the many struggles Carlo had to overcome – to learn how to master the art of self-control, to master the virtue of temperance, starting by the simple things. He used to say, "What's the use of winning 1,000 battles if you can't beat your own passions?"

Carlo's motto – "Being originals and not photocopies" – reflects the life of a normal teenager who strived to be the best version of himself, living the ordinary in an extraordinary way. He used his first savings to buy a sleeping bag for a homeless man he often saw on the way to Mass. ...

When he was gifted a diary, he decided to use it to track his progress: "good marks" if he behaved well and "bad marks" if he did not meet his expectations. This is how he tracked his progress. In that same notebook he jotted down, "Sadness is looking at oneself, happiness is looking at God. Conversion is nothing but a movement of the eyes". ...

Raejsh, a Hindu who cleaned at Carlo's house, was impressed that someone "as handsome, young and rich" decided to live a simple life. "He captivated me with his deep faith, charity and purity," he remarked. Through Carlo's example, Raejsh decided to be baptized in the Catholic Church.

Purity was very important in Carlo's life. "Each person reflects the light of God", was something he commonly said. It hurt him when his classmates did not live according to Christian morals. He would encourage them to do so, trying to help them understand that the human body is a gift from God and that sexuality had to be lived as God had intended. "The dignity of each human being was so great, that Carlo saw sexuality as something very special, as it was collaborating with God's creation," his mother recalled. ...

Carlo's true passion was the Eucharist: "his highway to heaven". This led to his mother's conversion. A woman who had only gone "three times to Mass in her life" was conquered in the end by the boy's affection for Jesus. She enrolled herself in a theology course so she could answer all the questions of her young son.

At the age of 11, Carlo began to investigate the Eucharistic miracles that have occurred in history. He used all his computer knowledge and talents to create a website that traced that history. It comprises 160 panels and...has made the rounds of more than 10,000 parishes in the world. [[www.miracolieucaaristici.org](http://www.miracolieucaaristici.org)] Carlo could not understand why stadiums were full of people and churches were empty. He would repeatedly say, "They have to see, they have to understand."

In Summer 2006, Carlo asked his mother: "Do you think I should become a priest?" She answered: "You will see it by yourself, God will reveal it to you." At the beginning of that school year he did not feel well. It seemed like a normal flu. But when he didn't get better, his parents took him to hospital. "I'm not getting out of here," he said when he entered the building. Shortly after, he was diagnosed with one of the worst types of leukemia – Acute Myeloid Leukemia. His reaction was striking: "I offer to the Lord the sufferings that I will have to undergo, for the Pope and for the Church, so as not to have to be in Purgatory and be able to go directly to heaven." He died shortly after. "He is being a priest from heaven," says his mother.

# Women Lectors and Acolytes

**Pope Francis, "Motu Proprio" *Spiritus Domini*, 10-01-2021**

The Spirit of the Lord Jesus, the perennial source of the Church's life and mission, distributes to the members of the People of God the gifts that enable each one, in a different way, to contribute to the building up of the Church and to the proclamation of the Gospel. These charisms, called ministries because they are publicly recognised and instituted by the Church, are made available to the community and its mission in a stable form.

In some cases this ministerial contribution has its origin in a specific sacrament, Holy Orders. Other tasks, throughout history, have been instituted in the Church and entrusted through a non-sacramental liturgical rite to individual members of the faithful, by virtue of a particular form of exercise of the baptismal priesthood, and in aid of the specific ministry of bishops, priests and deacons.

Following a venerable tradition, the reception of "lay ministries", which Saint Paul VI regulated in the Motu Proprio *Ministeria quaedam* (17 August 1972), preceded in a preparatory manner the reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, although such ministries were conferred on other suitable male faithful.

A number of Assemblies of the Synod of Bishops have highlighted the need to deepen the subject doctrinally, so that it may respond to the nature of the aforementioned charisms and the needs of the times, offering appropriate support to the role of evangelisation that is incumbent upon the ecclesial community.

Accepting these recommendations, a doctrinal development has taken place in recent years which has highlighted how certain ministries instituted by the Church are based on the common condition of being baptised and the regal priesthood received in the Sacrament of Baptism; they are essentially distinct from the ordained ministry received in the Sacrament of Orders. A consolidated practice in the Latin Church has also confirmed, in fact, that these lay ministries, since they are based on the Sacrament of Baptism, may be entrusted to all suitable faithful, whether male or female, in accordance with what is already implicitly provided for by Canon 230 § 2.

Consequently, after having heard the opinion of the competent Dicasteries, I have decided to modify canon 230 § 1 of the Code of Canon Law. I therefore decree that canon 230 § 1 of the Code of Canon Law shall in future have the following wording:

*"Lay persons of suitable age and with the gifts determined by decree of the Episcopal Conference may be permanently assigned, by means of the established liturgical rite, to the ministries of lectors and acolytes; however, the conferment of such a role does not entitle them to support or remuneration from the Church."*

## Transformed

**Pope Francis, to Vatican employees, 21-12-2020**

Let us look again at the shepherds: "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them". They went back to their everyday lives. We too must go back to our everyday lives: Christmas is passing. But we must return to family life, to work, transformed, we must return glorifying and praising God for all that we have heard and seen. We must bring the good news to the world: Jesus is our saviour. And this is a duty. Why do I have hope? Because the Lord has saved me. To remember what we contemplate and to go forth and proclaim it. Announce it with the word, with the testimony of our lives.

Zenit.org 21-12-2020

## Year of St Joseph Prayer to St Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil.

Amen.



# The Cry of the Heart

**Pope Francis, General Audience 09-12-2020**

Do not be ashamed to pray. "Lord, I need this", "Lord, I am in difficulty", "Help me!": the cry, the cry of the heart to God who is the Father. And also to do so in happy moments, not only in bad times, but also in happy ones, to thank God for everything that is given to us, and not to take anything for granted or as if it were owed to us: everything is grace. We must learn this. The Lord always gives to us, always, and everything is grace, everything. The grace of God. However, we must not suffocate the supplication that rises up in us spontaneously. Prayer of petition goes in step with acceptance of our limit and our nature as creatures. One may even not reach the point of belief in God, but it is difficult not to believe in prayer: it simply exists, it presents itself to us as a cry; and we all know this inner voice that may remain silent for a long time, but one day awakens and cries out.

And, brothers and sisters, we know that God will respond. There is no prayer in the Book of Psalms that raises a lament that remains unheard. God always answers: maybe today, tomorrow, but he always answers, in one way or another. He always answers. The Bible repeats it countless times: God listens to the cry of those who invoke Him. Even our reluctant questions, those that remain in the depths of our heart, that we are ashamed to express: the Father listens to them and wishes to give us the Holy Spirit, which inspires every prayer and transforms everything. Brothers and sisters, in prayer there is always a question of patience, always, of supporting the wait. ...

Let us learn to stay in waiting; in expectation of the Lord. The Lord comes to visit us, not only in these great feasts – Christmas, Easter – but rather the Lord visits us every day, in the intimacy of our heart if we are in waiting. And very often we do not realise that the Lord is nearby, that He knocks on our door, and we let Him pass on by. "I am afraid of God when He passes", Saint Augustine used to say. "I am afraid He will pass and I will not realise". And the Lord passes, the Lord comes, the Lord knocks. But if your ears are filled with other noise, you will not hear the call of the Lord. Brothers and sisters, staying in waiting: this is prayer.

Zenit.org 09-12-2020

# The Value of a Priest

**From a sermon by Fr Peter M. Stravinskis (founder and superior of the Priestly Society of Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman) for a parish mission in Memphis, 02-10-2020. Printed in Crisis Magazine 12-10-2020.**

Many years ago, eight of my seminary classmates and I went for a Christmastide dinner to Asti's in Manhattan; it was a lovely place, featuring live opera done by the waiters, unfortunately shuttered a long time ago.

After a delightful meal and wonderful entertainment by the singing waiters, we asked for our cheque and were told that it had been "taken care of." When we inquired of the who, the why and the how, we were told the benefactor wished to remain anonymous. Finally, the maître d' prevailed on our host to allow himself to be identified. Some of us went over to the table to thank him personally. I said, "I hope you know what you got yourself in for, with nine very hungry and thirsty priests tonight!"

The man, on holiday with his wife, son and father from the Midwest, smiled and said: "Father, no matter what it costs, we've gotten off cheap tonight. Everything I am, Father, is what the Church has made me – two decades of Catholic education, including a law degree from Notre Dame University, and great priests and nuns. In fact, I just said to my son, 'You see those young priests?' – none of us had any gray hair yet! – "They could have been anything and done anything, but they gave it all up, so that you, your mother, your grandfather and I could have Christ in the sacraments.' Merry Christmas, Fathers."

I recount the episode, not to extoll the possibilities of clerical rank and privilege, but to demonstrate the kind of love one man had for the Sacred Priesthood – the kind of love every Catholic worthy of the name should have. This sentiment is appropriate, not because priests are angels – we are not, as we ourselves know all too well – but because in God's mysterious plan, priests can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

# Pro Populo Masses

Answered by Fr Edward McNamara, professor of liturgy and sacramental theology and director of the Sacerdos Institute at the Pontifical Regina Apostolorum university Zenit.org 08-12-2020

**Q:** In the Ordo, it states that Masses *pro populo* are said on Sundays and holy days by the pastor. Can another priest or visiting priest say the Mass *pro populo* and not the pastor? - M.P., St. Petersburg, Florida

**A:** The pastor's obligation to offer Mass and other prayers for the souls entrusted to him derives from the mission itself as shepherd of souls. Moreover, this obligation is enshrined in canon law. To wit:

"Can. 534 §1. After a pastor has taken possession of his parish, he is obliged to apply a Mass for the people entrusted to him on each Sunday and holy day of obligation in his diocese. If he is legitimately impeded from this celebration, however, he is to apply it on the same days through another or on other days himself.

"§2. A pastor who has the care of several parishes is bound to apply only one Mass for the entire people entrusted to him on the days mentioned in §1.

"§3. A pastor who has not satisfied the obligation mentioned in §§1 and 2 is to apply as soon as possible as many Masses for the people as he has omitted."

Therefore, every parish priest is required to offer the Mass *pro populo*. This also applies to parochial administrators and priest moderators in accordance with canons 540 §1 and 517 §2.

In most cases the Mass *pro populo* should be programmed from the beginning of the year and listed in the bulletin as either "*pro populo*," or "for the People of the Parish[es]." This helps avoid assuming other intentions for the Eucharistic celebrations set aside for the *pro populo* Mass.

... [A] pastor who is scheduled to be away from his parish for a good reason could fulfill his obligation by offering Mass at another location.

The obligation to celebrate the Mass falls primarily on the pastor himself. As such, it is not something that he should habitually delegate to another priest. However, Canon 534 §1 recognizes that if a legitimate reason prevents the pastor from this obligation, he may apply it on the same day through another, or on another day himself. For example, a pastor with more than one church might have to cover for another priest who has fallen ill and be unable to return in time for the *pro populo* Mass. In such a situation he can ask another priest to celebrate the *pro populo* Mass along with its intention.

On other occasions, he may retain the intention but not preside at the Mass. For example, should a newly ordained priest return to celebrate his first solemn Mass at his home parish at the celebration foreseen as *pro populo*, the pastor can concelebrate with the *pro populo* intention even though he does not preside at the Mass.

## Thanksgiving

**Pope Francis, General Audience 30-12-2020**

The Catechism says: "every event and need can become an offering of thanksgiving" (n. 2638). The prayer of thanksgiving always begins from here: from the recognition that grace precedes us. We were thought of before we learned how to think; we were loved before we learned how to love; we were desired before our hearts conceived a desire. If we view life like this, then "thank you" becomes the driving force of our day. And how often we even forget to say "thank you".

Vatican.va

## Human Ethics

**Pope Francis, in an interview with Italian TV Canale 5  
From an article by Vatican News, 11-01-2021**

"The problem of abortion," he clarifies, "is not a religious problem; it is a human problem; it is pre-religious; it is a problem of human ethics" before becoming a religious issue. "It is a problem that even an atheist must solve in their own way."

"Is it right," he questions, "to end a human life to solve a problem, any problem? Is it right to hire a hitman to solve a problem?"

# Note on the Morality of Using Some anti-Covid-19 Vaccines

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 21-12-2020

... In recent months, this Congregation has received several requests for guidance regarding the use of vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19, which, in the course of research and production, employed cell lines drawn from tissue obtained from two abortions that occurred in the last century. ...

There is already an important pronouncement of the Pontifical Academy for Life on this issue, entitled "Moral reflections on vaccines prepared from cells derived from aborted human fetuses" (5 June 2005). Further, this Congregation expressed itself on the matter with the Instruction *Dignitas Personae* (2008, cf. nn. 34 & 35). In 2017, the Pontifical Academy for Life returned to the topic with a Note. These documents already offer some general directive criteria.

Since the first vaccines against Covid-19 are already available for distribution and administration in various countries, this Congregation desires to offer some indications for clarification of this matter. We do not intend to judge the safety and efficacy of these vaccines, although ethically relevant and necessary, as this evaluation is the responsibility of biomedical researchers and drug agencies. Here, our objective is only to consider the moral aspects of the use of the vaccines against Covid-19 that have been developed from cell lines derived from tissues obtained from two fetuses that were not spontaneously aborted.

1. As the Instruction *Dignitas Personae* states, in cases where cells from aborted fetuses are employed to create cell lines for use in scientific research, "there exist differing degrees of responsibility" of cooperation in evil. For example, "in organizations where cell lines of illicit origin are being utilized, the responsibility of those who make the decision to use them is not the same as that of those who have no voice in such a decision".
2. In this sense, when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available (e.g. in countries where vaccines without ethical problems are not made available to physicians and patients, or where their distribution is more difficult due to special storage and transport conditions, or when various types of vaccines are distributed in the same country but health authorities do not allow citizens to choose the vaccine with which to be inoculated) *it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.*
3. The fundamental reason for considering the use of these vaccines morally licit is that the kind of cooperation in evil (*passive material cooperation*) in the procured abortion from which these cell lines originate is, on the part of those making use of the resulting vaccines, *remote*. The moral duty to avoid such passive material cooperation is not obligatory if there is a grave danger, such as the otherwise uncontrollable spread of a serious pathological agent – in this case, the pandemic spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19. It must therefore be considered that, in such a case, all vaccinations recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience with *the certain knowledge that the use of such vaccines does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion* from which the cells used in production of the vaccines derive. It should be emphasized, however, that the morally licit use of these types of vaccines, in the particular conditions that make it so, does not in itself constitute a legitimation, even indirect, of the practice of abortion, and necessarily assumes the opposition to this practice by those who make use of these vaccines.
4. In fact, the licit use of such vaccines does not and should not in any way imply that there is a moral endorsement of the use of cell lines proceeding from aborted fetuses. Both pharmaceutical companies and governmental health agencies are therefore encouraged *to produce, approve, distribute and offer ethically acceptable vaccines that do not create problems of conscience* for either health care providers or the people to be vaccinated.
5. At the same time, practical reason makes evident that vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary. In any case, from the ethical point of view, *the morality of vaccination depends not only on the duty to protect one's own health, but also on the duty to pursue the common good.* In the absence of other means to stop or even prevent the epidemic, the common good may recommend vaccination, especially to protect the weakest and most exposed. Those who, however, for reasons of conscience, refuse vaccines produced with cell lines from aborted fetuses, must do their utmost to avoid, by other prophylactic means and appropriate behaviour, becoming vehicles for the transmission of the infectious agent. In particular, they must avoid any risk to the health of those who cannot be vaccinated for medical or other reasons, and who are the most vulnerable. ...

## 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

## Take It Up Again

### Pope Francis, Homily 06-01-2021

In our day, it is particularly necessary for us, both as individuals and as communities, to devote more time to worship. We need to learn ever better how to contemplate the Lord. We have somewhat lost the meaning of the prayer of adoration, so we must take it up again, both in our communities and in our own spiritual life.

## Do Not Become a Slave Again

### Saint Leo the Great

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom. Through the sacrament of Baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.

## 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