

# ***Into the Deep***

Issue 226

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

May 2022

## **It is the Lord!**

**Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher of the Pontifical Household, 4<sup>th</sup> Lenten sermon 2022**

Faith in the real presence is a wonderful thing, but it is not enough; at least, faith taken in a certain way is not enough. It is not enough to have an exact and theologically perfect idea of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist. Many theologians know all about the mystery, yet they do not know the real presence. In biblical terms you "know" something only when you have experienced it. To know fire, you would have to have been, at least once, so close to a flame to risk being burnt.

St Gregory of Nyssa left us an amazingly profound expression of this higher kind of faith; he speaks of a "sentiment of the presence". This happens when a person is seized by God's presence and has a certain perception (not just an idea) that God is there. It is not a natural perception; it is the fruit of grace. There is a strong analogy between this and what happened when, after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to someone. It was something sudden that unexpectedly and absolutely changed the person's state of mind.

One day after the resurrection the apostles were fishing in the lake; a man stood on the beach. He started talking from a distance: "Children, have you any fish?" and they answered him, "No!" But then, in a flash of understanding, John cried out: "It is the Lord!" Everything is different after this recognition and everybody hurries ashore. The same thing happened, even if in a quieter way, to the disciples of Emmaus. Jesus was walking with them, "but their eyes were kept from recognizing him"; finally, when he broke the bread, "their eyes were opened and they recognized him". The same thing happens when a Christian, who has received Jesus in the Eucharist numerous times, one day, finally, through grace, "recognizes" him.

Cantalamessa.org

## **The Joy of the Mass**

**Cardinal George Pell, in *Prison Journal*, Volume 3: 20 February 2020 entry**

Today was a good day for a couple of reasons but mainly because Aileen brought Fr John McCarthy, now eighty-two, to celebrate Mass for me. I covertly concelebrated. For some time, I wondered why I "enjoyed" it much more than the two Masses at MAP [Melbourne Assessment Prison], and obviously a good deal depends on one's "religious" mood: dry or more open to consolation, realising or sensing more easily the spiritual significance of what we were doing. All of this is relevant, but the main difference was that today we were in our isolated small room, surrounded by quiet, conducive to reverence. ... Once again, as Mass was beginning, I thought how terrible it would be to be prevented from celebrating or attending Mass – for nearly one year is bad enough – or worse than that. The ancient ritual whose central elements go back to Our Lord himself is worth more than a thousand sermons and absolutely essential as the core activity to be enhanced by the readings from the word of God. The Roman rite we celebrated is probably more than fifteen hundred years old, and I rejoice again in the fact that 80 percent of the prayers, which we laboured so hard to translate into an accurate and beautiful English, come from Latin prayers a thousand years old. As St Mary of the Cross liked to say, "Remember we are but travellers here."

George Cardinal Pell, *Prison Journal*, Volume 3 (Ignatius Press, 2021), p.212-213. [www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com)

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

# Those Who Have Wronged Us

**Pope Francis, Homily 10-04-2022**

There, as he was being crucified, at the height of his pain, Jesus himself obeyed the most demanding of his commandments: that we love our enemies.

Let us think about someone who, in our own lives, injured, offended or disappointed us; someone who made us angry, who did not understand us or who set a bad example. How often we spend time looking back on those who have wronged us! How often we think back and lick the wounds that other people, life itself and history have inflicted on us.

Today, Jesus teaches us not to remain there, but to react, to break the vicious circle of evil and sorrow. To react to the nails in our lives with love, to the buffets of hatred with the embrace of forgiveness.

As disciples of Jesus, do we follow the Master or do we follow our own desire to strike back? This is a question we have to ask ourselves. Do we follow the Master or not?

Vatican.va

## An Easter Prayer

**Aid to the Church in Need**

Risen Lord, accept my praise and thanks at Your resurrection. You are my light, my hope, and my God.

In this Easter season, I recall that the faith I profess was brought to me by countless others who wanted to share the joy of Your resurrection. They offered to me the undeserved gift of knowing You and the Church which You founded for our salvation.

With a grateful heart I give thanks for my ancestors in the faith. Only You, Lord, know the name of each person who carried that light through the generations, ultimately passing it to me. May they be blessed for their faithfulness to You.

I beg You Lord for the gift of perseverance, that I, like those before me, will humbly and faithfully pass onto others the gift of faith I have received.

May all of us be one day united, with the Blessed Mother, at that Paschal Feast in Heaven, where we shall sing of Your love for all eternity. Amen.

[www.aidtochurch.org](http://www.aidtochurch.org)

# Marian Day

The Ordinariate Parish of the Most Holy Family invites you to come spend a day with us to celebrate Our Lady of Compassion.

Theme: Sorrow of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Date: 14 May 2022

Place: St Brigid's, Church Street, Cowwarr, Victoria

9am: Adoration and Confession

10am: Benediction

10.15am: Morning tea

11am: Talk by Fr Ken Clark

11.45am: Procession and Crowning of Our Lady's statue

12pm: Holy Mass

1pm: Lunch – bring your own

2pm: Talk by Fr Ken Clark

3pm: Divine Mercy chaplet and Close

Everyone welcome!

**Pat Crozier 0400 218 417**

**Fr Ken Clark 0403 383 873**

## June/July

The next issue of Into the Deep will be a combined June/July issue, before I take a break and return with the August issue, so if you have any letters in mind, get them on paper and send them to me before you miss your opportunity!

Ed.

## Mothers

**Venerable Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty**

The most important person on earth is a mother.

She cannot claim the honour of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral – a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body. The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can.

Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature. God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation.

What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?

# Seven Things You Didn't Know About Mary

By Staff Writers at Catholic Weekly, 27-05-2021

Throughout the month of May the Catholic Church has been celebrating Our Lady and Mother Mary. From the Pope's Rosary Marathon to the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, May has been an opportunity for us to lean on our Mother for help and support.

To celebrate again the incredible gift to our lives that is Mary, here's a list of seven interesting facts you may not have known about the Mother of God. Enjoy!

**1. Forget-me-nots:** Forget-me-not flowers are a symbol of the blue 'Eyes of Mary' (their other name). It's believed when the child Jesus was sitting on Mary's lap looking up into her eyes, He wished future generations could see Him and his mother together. He then touched the earth and Forget-me-not flowers sprang up in her memory.

**2. U2's 'Magnificent':** Irish rock band U2's song Magnificent was inspired by Mary's beautiful song of praise, commonly called the Magnificat, found in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 1:46-55).

**3. Queen of Heaven:** The colour blue became associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary in the early 5<sup>th</sup> century, after she was declared "Queen of Heaven, Spiritual Mother and Intercessor" by the Church in 431.

**4. Hail, Mary!** The Hail Mary prayer first appeared in print in 1495 in Girolamo Savonarola's "Esposizione sopra l'Ave Maria."

*"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee" are the words of the angel Gabriel when he greets Mary at the Annunciation (Luke 1:28) and Mary's cousin Elizabeth welcomes her with the words "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" during the Visitation (Luke 1:42).*

**5. The Rosary:** Rosary is derived from 'rosarium', Latin for 'crown of roses'.

*It is believed when you pray the rosary it is like you are taking a walk through Mary's beautiful garden of roses.*

**6. A Marian Devotion:** The book *Pope Francis and the Virgin Mary: A Marian Devotion*, by Vincenzo Sansonetti, focuses on Pope Francis's love for the Virgin Mary.

**7. Mother of the Church:** In 2018, Pope Francis decreed that a new feast day devoted to Mary as the "Mother of the Church" would be celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost.

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/seven-things-you-didnt-know-about-mary/>

## Thank You...

Thank you very much for sending me Into the Deep over the past many years. I have not sent any subs over the past couple of years as I got very busy with the Catholic Women's League since my dear husband passed away 3 years ago. I am now President of Tasmania and have had a lot of paperwork to do and I have not been good at 'book keeping' in the past but have improved now! I enclose a contribution to keep you going.

Thank you for the information from the Holy Fathers, I enjoy hearing about Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI and your readers' letters. I came from the same parish as Richard Stokes in Burpengary so enjoy reading his letters too. Maybe you can do an Easter or Whitsun Quiz, I enjoy your quizzes.

Wendy Harrap, George Town, Tasmania

## ...And Goodbye

As Helen and I are downsizing, 89 and nearly 93, we have decided that we will no longer be reading Into the Deep. Your publication has been a help to us over all those years, but is one of many papers that we will no longer be receiving. We are blessed to daily watch Holy Mass with Fr Nicholas Dillon of Blackburn North on the computer at 9am, a very holy priest, full attention on Jesus, not on the congregation or on himself. May God bless you and your work.

John Casanova, Westmere, Victoria

## Lovely Story

Thank you for your work! Lovely story from Fr Rizzo (April ITD, p.7).

Carmel Righetti, Victoria

# Believing in the Devil

**Pope Francis, in an interview with Lorena Bianchetti of Rai (Radiotelevisione italiana), 15-04-2022**

**Holy Father:** ... Some say that I speak too much about the devil. But he is real. I believe in him, eh! Some say: *"No, he is a myth"*. I don't go along with myths, I go along with reality, I believe it. But he is seductive. Seduction always tried to enter promising something. If sins were ugly, if they didn't contain anything good, no one would sin. The devil presents something beautiful about the sin to you, and leads you to sin. ...

The devil is always after our destruction. Why? Because we are the image of God. ...

**Lorena Bianchetti:** I read that Leo XIII had a prayer against the devil introduced at the end of Mass, because he said that there was the risk that the devil could infiltrate the Church even through the cracks in the doors. What do you think, then, about this crack through which the devil has succeeded in entering the Church today?

**Holy Father:** Worldliness – but this has always been so. [In] every age, worldliness changes its name, but it is [always] worldliness. Every day, I pray that prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel in the morning. Every day! So that it might help me conquer the devil. Someone who hears me might say: *"But, Your Holiness, you have studied, you are the Pope and you still believe in the devil?"* Yes, I believe in him, I believe in him. I am afraid of him, this is why I have to defend myself so much. The devil was the one who did all that manoeuvring so that Jesus would end up like he did, on the cross. The powers of darkness over Jesus: *"This is your hour"*, the powers of darkness.

Vatican.va

## Vibrant Faith

**Pope Francis, Homily in Malta, 02-04-2022**

However, the life of the Church – let us always keep this in mind – is never merely "a past to remember", but a "great future to build", always in docility to God's plans. A faith made up of received traditions, solemn celebrations, popular festivals and powerful and emotional moments cannot be enough; we need a faith built upon and constantly renewed in the personal encounter with Christ, in daily listening to his word, in active participation in the life of the Church and in authentic popular piety.

The crisis of faith, apathy in religious practice, especially in the aftermath of the pandemic, the indifference shown by many young people towards the presence of God: these are not issues that we should "sugar-coat", thinking that, all things considered, a certain religious spirit still endures, no.

At times, structures can be religious, yet beneath outward appearances, faith is fading. An elegant repertoire of religious traditions does not always correspond to a vibrant faith marked by zeal for evangelization. We need to ensure that religious practices do not get reduced to relics from the past, but remain the expression of a living, open faith that spreads the joy of the Gospel, for the joy of the Church is to evangelize.

Vatican.va

## Peace on Earth

**Saint John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris***

**170.** The sacred liturgy of these days re-echoes the same message: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, after His resurrection stood in the midst of His disciples and said: Peace be upon you, alleluia. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord." It is Christ, therefore, who brought us peace; Christ who bequeathed it to us: "Peace I leave with you: my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, do I give unto you."

**171.** Let us, then, pray with all fervour for this peace which our divine Redeemer came to bring us. May He banish from the souls of men whatever might endanger peace. May He transform all men into witnesses of truth, justice and brotherly love. May He illumine with His light the minds of rulers, so that, besides caring for the proper material welfare of their peoples, they may also guarantee them the fairest gift of peace.

Finally, may Christ inflame the desires of all men to break through the barriers which divide them, to strengthen the bonds of mutual love, to learn to understand one another, and to pardon those who have done them wrong. Through His power and inspiration may all peoples welcome each other to their hearts as brothers, and may the peace they long for ever flower and ever reign among them.

# Defender of Truth: The Courage of Blessed Titus Brandsma

Denise M. Cameron President, Pro-life Victoria

The Catholic Church has a long tradition of elevating certain past adherents to sainthood. This is always done following rigorous scrutiny, over many years and sometimes centuries, after their deaths.

Orders of Australia are bestowed to honour and mark the contribution to the nation made by the person so honoured. Sainthood is not so much as to honour those designated saints, as by their example, to inspire and encourage those of us left behind.

With Australia facing the risk of the last euthanasia domino to fall with the New South Wales parliament currently debating physician prescribed suicide, it is tragically ironic that of one of the 10 saints to be canonised in Rome on May 15, Blessed Titus Brandsma, a Dutch born Carmelite priest, a wisp of a man who had many health issues in life and was housed in Dachau's "hospital", was euthanised there on July 26, 1942.

The February 6 edition of the *National Catholic Register* reported Titus Brandsma was murdered with a shot of poison, *reportedly showing no bitterness toward his executioner. He told the nurse to use his rosary to pray. She saw no point of it, as she was not religious. In 1956, at a German war-crimes hearing, the same nurse voluntarily testified about Brandsma's last day. "I sensed immediately that he felt very sorry for me... Once he took me by the hand and said, 'What a poor girl you are. I pray for you a lot.' The woman, who became a Catholic, told the hearing: "I have killed a holy man."*

The just-published first major biography of Titus Brandsma is titled *The Price of Truth*, something about which many pro-life activists understand very well. Father William Harry, director of *Carmelite Media Publications*, said in an interview with the *Register*, "We need people who show us it is possible to have the strength [to] stand up for what we believe and who we are."

From the *Register* I learned how one of Brandsma's duties was to oversee the vibrant Dutch Catholic press. He believed that should the Catholic press abandon the ideal of being a weapon of truth, its very existence would make no sense, either for journalists or for the Church. When the Germans took control of the Netherlands in May 1940, they insisted that all newspapers, Catholic and secular, print pro-Nazi press releases and encouraged ordinary Dutch men and women to join Nazi groups.

The Catholic bishops were having none of it. Their opening salvo was a pastoral letter that Catholics were forbidden from being part of any Nazi organization. Those that ignored the letter were to be denied the sacraments. Then Brandsma decided to visit Catholic newspaper editors and made it clear that any cooperation with the Nazis would mean no longer being able to call themselves Catholic. He could have left this task to the bishops, as it would have been more difficult for Nazi officials to arrest those so high in the Church hierarchy. But Brandsma saw it as his duty and knew he would likely be arrested.

Titus was taken into custody on Jan. 19, 1942, at the Carmelite Priory in Nijmegen by the Germans. He went through another of the camps, finally arriving at Dachau - once described, among other things, as "the largest priest cemetery in the world". The guards were sadistic. Prisoners who were not worked to death were eventually killed. Beatings were the norm. The doctors performed perverse medical experiments, treating their victims as mere lab rats.

As happened in Titus Brandsma's time on this earth, we too struggle to proclaim the truth against false propaganda, distortions of the truth, suppression of free speech... and euthanasia. May the elevation to sainthood of the martyr Titus Brandsma, inspire us all to do as he did. *Defend the truth.*

Pro-Life News, vol 38, no.1, Summer 2022, [prolife.org.au](http://prolife.org.au)

"Human life is sacred – all men must recognize that fact. From its very inception it reveals the creating hand of God." **Pope John XXIII**

# Crisis of Faith in Australia

Article by Archbishop Julian Porteous, Archbishop of Hobart, 11-04-2022: *On reading 'Towards the Second Assembly'*

As a bishop I hope and pray that the Second Assembly for the Plenary Council will set the Church on a path of spiritual and pastoral renewal such that it will be able to meet the challenges of our time. I write what follows out of great love for the Church and deep concern for its future. On reading the working document for the Plenary Council, "Towards the Second Assembly", I sense a church that has lost confidence in itself; a church that has lost confidence in its identity and mission.

There are, of course, many good proposals in the document which flow from the various interventions in the First Assembly, but there are some things that are lacking. Overall, I sense that there is a lack of confidence in what we as Catholics have to offer our society as it loses its sense of God and abandons Christian virtue. We are at a critical moment as we witness the radical decline in faith and morals occurring in our nation. This is the time for the Church to rise up with new evangelical vigour. This is the time to turn all our attention to announcing a word of life and hope. This document, sadly, I believe, does not reflect such an intent. ...

What is lacking is the nobility of vision found in the great works of the Catholic intellectual tradition. The text is like a modern office block in comparison to a cathedral: functional but lacking that which elevates the mind and heart and witnesses to the transcendent. The Catholic theological tradition has been shaped by great minds of holy men and women. In this tradition an encounter with the mystery of the All Holy God has taken the human mind and spirit beyond the limits of the material and immediate.

We, in the Catholic Church, are blessed by our body of theology and spirituality that has captivated souls and raised them to aspire to holiness. It has raised up thousands of saints and given courage to countless martyrs. The Catholic faith has inspired mystics and founders of religious orders. Belief in what the Catholic faith offers to human life has resulted in thousands of missionaries pouring out their lives to enable others to know Christ and discover joy, hope and salvation in him.

One senses in this document a church that has become tired and has lost its sense of purpose; a church that has surrendered to the surrounding cultural ethos. ... The document suggests that we need to find "new ways of being Church", (p.17) rather than entering more deeply into the mystery of the Church to unleash the power of the life of Grace. There is a sense we are a church that has embraced the option of wanting to be accepted and approved by the world; a church that wants to seem relevant within a secular society. ...

In all this one senses that the salt has lost its flavour and, as the Lord warned, will be trampled underfoot by men. There is no sense in the document of the Catholic Church in Australia being prepared to be a prophetic voice speaking truth with love within the culture, to challenge the prevailing ethos. Have we become afraid to speak out what we believe? When the prophet Jeremiah was called, the Lord told him to speak what he was commanded to speak and the Lord warned him, "Do not be dismayed in their presence or in their presence I will make you dismayed". (Jer 1:17) If we shrink from our prophetic task we will become caught in a spiritual paralysis. ... The document lacks an authentically Catholic vision of human life inspired by Christ's teaching and the zeal to proclaim what it knows to be true and right.

The first Christians knew that they had a message which offered the path to eternal salvation and they boldly proclaimed Jesus Christ risen from the dead as Lord and Saviour, and the Church grew rapidly as people embraced this message. Yet this document lacks a sense that the Church has the "words of everlasting life". It does not seem to believe that it alone can offer the transcendent truth and the way to salvation. It lacks a call to personal conversion and the pursuit of higher and noble spiritual ideals.

While we have been encouraged in the Plenary Council journey to listen to the Spirit of God, it seems that what has been heard instead is the spirit of the age. Jesus began his public ministry by proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is near at hand. In other words, that God was close and accessible. The Lord said that what was required to bring one's life under the grace and mercy of God was to repent and believe. (Mk 1:15) The Church has the perennial mission of calling people to change the orientation of their life and direct it towards God, opening their hearts to the grace of salvation. Over Christian history the clear proclamation of the Christian message – the kerygma – has brought about conversions and deep faith.

*Continued on p.7.*

*Continued from p.6.*

There is clear evidence that those Christian churches that have chosen the path of accommodation to the times have sunk into decline and have become a shell of their former selves. Those churches that align themselves to the spirit of the age offer no attraction to the people of the age. Why join something that is just like everything else? It is those churches who have boldly proclaimed the kerygma and have been prepared to stand by those Christian tenets which challenge the culture that are flourishing. People will be attracted to something which reflects the true, the good and the beautiful. People search for something that challenges them to be better than they are. There is a strange attraction of the human heart towards the truth. Even if it is resisted it still attracts. The faithful presentation of the Gospel reveals a power to transform people's lives. St Paul said that he was not ashamed of the Gospel because "it is the power of God to save all who have faith". (Rom 1:16) The Church has one task – to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the way to salvation. The mission of the Church is to enable people to encounter Christ in such a way that they open their hearts and lives fully to him. As St Paul VI declared, "The Church exists in order to evangelise". (EN 14) This missionary impulse is lacking in this document.

This working paper is inviting members of the Plenary Council to embrace a number of proposals that are inconsistent with authentic Catholic faith and would simply hasten the demise of the faith in Australia. The document fails seriously when it abandons fidelity to the Catholic Tradition expressed in the Scriptures and the Magisterium. For instance, it persists in advocating for the Third Rite of Reconciliation (P.24) when this is a settled question. ... While lay people have a role in contributing to the governance and leadership of the Church the many proposals listed in the document on this question clearly go against the consistent teaching of the Church, expressed most recently in the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, that such governance by divine intent, is solely entrusted to bishops. ... Yet the document proposes something not canvassed at the First Assembly, a lay body to parallel the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. (P.11)

The document also lacks an affirmation of the role of priests especially in their pastoral and sacramental ministry. It could benefit from a clear and unambiguous promotion of the need for priestly vocations. Too much of the document focuses on women's involvement in leadership within the Church and promotes claims for women to be ordained to the diaconate (P.12), while it lacks a promotion of both authentic religious life for women and more generally complementary nature of the feminine genius. It actually asks bishops to "continue to review the universal teaching of the Church which precludes women from the papacy, the episcopacy and priesthood". (P.13) This is directly against Catholic teaching.

The sharp edge of the call to conversion and faith is lacking in the document. In the face of the rise of those who declare that they have no faith it is necessary more than ever to issue the call to faith. For those whose lives are at variance with Christian moral teaching, the Church invites them to hear Christian teaching about the true nature of human life and the path to human flourishing. It is this truth found in Catholic teaching that will set them free. (see John 8:32) ...

The Church in Australia is in the midst of an existential crisis as it witnesses thousands abandoning participation in the sacramental life of the Church each year. The Church is in serious decline, yet no real recognition of this reality is given in the document. A Plenary Council at this moment in our history should have this crisis at the heart of its deliberations, yet scant recognition is given to the question. Because the crisis of faith is not acknowledged, the document makes no effort to propose a way forward for the Church. While there are many external factors, the document fails to consider the possible internal causes for the loss of faith among so many Catholics. In times past, in times of crisis, the Church has been able to respond robustly to the challenge of the age. The time of the Counter Reformation is such an example. The Church at that time set about the task of serious internal spiritual and moral reform and, in time, witnessed a renewed vitality of faith and great missionary zeal.

If this working document is largely accepted as the basis for the Second Assembly it will not facilitate the spiritual and pastoral renewal so needed at this time, but rather it will allow the process of further decline to occur, if not accelerate it. Without a serious effort at interior renewal and a new zeal for evangelisation the Church in Australia runs the risk of becoming a shallow image of its former self.

Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia, pray for us.

<https://hobart.catholic.org.au/2022/04/11/archbishop-porteous-on-reading-towards-the-second-assembly>

# Being Identified as a Priest

I loved the article, "Wrong Floor - or so I thought!" by Fr John Rizzo, in last month's issue (April ITD, p.7). If he were from the Diocese of Sale, there is no way the old man in room 212 would have identified and recognised him as 'Father', because clerical attire is not a requirement in this diocese. The majority of the priests, even those from overseas, wear civilian clothes to blend in and identify with society. For the life of me, I don't understand why bishops, who themselves at times dress like business executives, believe and think this is good for the Faith, the Church's evangelising mission and the salvation of souls.

The story by Fr Rizzo drives home the centrality of the clerical attire to the consecration and identity of priests as spiritual fathers of souls, and their personification of God, the eternal Father's presence here on earth, particularly in their parish families. It's a sign that they are bearers of God's salvation, and the life, light and love of the risen Christ. As visible witnesses, they are an expression of the Mystery of Christ and his Kingdom in this world. God ordained and willed that they should be holy men, set apart in order to administer his sacraments and to preach and teach. If the young priest wasn't dressed in his priestly attire, that old Catholic man's soul would have been lost to Christ. How terribly sad that would have been!

**Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria**

# May is the Month of Mary

May is the month of Mary,  
Month we all love so well;  
Mary is God's own Mother,  
Gladly her praise we tell.

Mary is Queen of Heaven,  
Crowned by her own dear Son,  
Angels and saints all love her,  
Mary loves everyone.

Oh Mary, dear Mother, we love you,  
And you love all children we know,  
For Jesus Himself gave us to you  
On Calvary, long years ago.

Chorus:  
Mary is beautiful, Mary is fair!  
Gladly we praise her  
in song and in prayer.

Mary, our Queen we crown you,  
Queen of our homes to-day,  
Ever we love to hail you,  
Beautiful Queen of May.

Mother dear, we love you,  
Your face we long to see,  
Smiling down from Heaven,  
A "Welcome Home" to me.

# Lay Catechists

I write with regard to last month's inspirational article on Blessed Benedict Daswa by Bishop-Emeritus Hugh Slattery who initiated his cause (April ITD, p.8). What strikes me about Blessed Benedict's journey in becoming a Catholic, was the fact that he was genuinely evangelised, that is, converted, by a lay catechist who himself was profoundly evangelised. Blessed Benedict epitomised the fundamental importance of first sincerely converting people to Jesus Christ and his Gospel, and adequately, coherently and systematically catechising them, before lavishing on them the sacraments of initiation. Blessed Benedict's commitment to ongoing conversion not only realised the fruits of the sacraments of initiation in his life, but fortified and strengthened him in his resolve to combat sin and all the other evils which prevailed in his surrounding traditional culture.

The other thing which strikes me about Blessed Benedict is that he lived his Catholic life responsibly, and took his baptismal promises seriously. As a catechist, husband and father, he strongly believed in handing on Christ to others, especially children, and in evangelising and catechising families; and that the Catechism of the Catholic Church should be taught and explained in families, the domestic church, in order to initiate the next generation into the Catholic way of life and giving them a clear and strong identity.

I could go on about the unassuming, holy and heroic life of Blessed Benedict Daswa, but suffice it to say that what is needed today more than ever, in the horrifically ignorant Church in Australia, is his apostolate of forming and training lay catechists to teach the Catechism of the Catholic Church to everyone as an essential part of the Church's all important evangelising mission.

**Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria**



# Conversion on a Haystack!

In 1988 when I was living in Idaho, I would often go on long trips to the neighbouring state of Montana to offer Mass in the different missions. One day a family asked me to see their elderly father who lived in a very remote but beautiful area just outside of Whitefish, Montana.

This man had been away from the Church for a long time, and the family simply wanted me to speak to him. After offering a mid-afternoon Mass in one of the missions in Montana, I drove another hour and found myself at a very remote farm. I got out of my car and knocked on the door, but looking through the glass door, I could see that no one was inside. It was a warm winter's day, there had been a recent snowfall, and there was mud *everywhere*. I walked around a bit, and as I walked towards the back, I heard a tractor ploughing one of the fields. I walked towards the barbed wire fence and saw an elderly gentleman sitting on the tractor about 50 metres away from the fence line. I yelled out to him "Sir, your son asked me to come and see you. Can we please have a talk?" The man yelled back "What do you want to talk about?" I yelled back "Well, you have been away from Church, and I was wondering if you would like to make a good confession." He said "If you want to see me, then you come over *here* and see me."

Now, again, the paddock was VERY muddy, I was in my cassock, and I had a nice pair of black shoes on. But I prayed "*Okay, Lord – if this is what You want...*"

I lifted my cassock up around my waist and threw some of it over my shoulder, climbed gingerly over the barbed wire fence, balancing on it, and then I jumped down from the fence into the muddy paddock – SPLASH!! I started walking through the mud – GLISH, GLISH, GLISH... and towards this man. By the time I got to him, he had turned off his tractor and was sitting down on a haystack. My shoes and trousers were covered in mud. He looked at me, and as I got closer, I saw he had tears in his eyes. He said to me "You DID come... you decided to come to me." I replied "Of course I decided to come to you. You called for me, and I came. Now how about a good confession?" So there we were – sitting on a haystack – this man returning to the Sacrament of Penance after many, many years away. I was covered in mud, but he was covered in grace.

From Memoirs from the Heart of a Priest (p.18-19), by Fr John Rizzo, Chaplain of Tyburn Priory, Diocese of Paramatta  
For a copy of the booklet, email [priestmemoirs@gmail.com](mailto:priestmemoirs@gmail.com)

## Anzac Day

As each year passes, I continue to be impressed at how well younger generations have been taught about Anzac day. There is so much awareness and respect, and participation by people of all ages in dawn services and marches across the county. Even football takes it seriously, with a minute's silence and the Last Post before every game over the Anzac Day long weekend. There are touching stories everywhere, of young men and old, of courage, of life and death, of sacrifice and of freedom. People are proud to be involved, proud to remember those who have gone before us and those who have sacrificed their lives for us.

Yet only last weekend we had Easter. Hardly a word was spoken about the sacrifice of the Son of God, who gave his life for our freedom. How wonderful it would be to see at least the same amount of honour and respect and love for Christ.

Ed.

## Nothing and Everything

St Norbert

O Priest, who are you?

You are not yourself because you are God.

You are not of yourself because you are the servant and minister of Christ.

You are not your own because you are the spouse of the Church.

You are not yourself because you are the mediator between God and man.

You are not from yourself because you are nothing. What then are you? Nothing and everything.

O Priest! Take care lest what was said to Christ on the cross be said to you:

'He saved others, himself he cannot save!'

# Get Real

A reflection by Fr John Speakman

Dear Friend, Are you one of those people who claims to believe – who claims to be a Catholic – but who doesn't make it to Mass? I have some words for you, words you may not want to hear.

There are many reasons why people no longer practice. I have heard them all. What would you say is the most common one? Be honest!

The most common reason – but not the one most commonly given – is the one I got from the father of a young family not so long ago when I asked him why he didn't go to Mass. He said: *Because I'm slack, Father.* He wasn't practising but he was straightforward and honest about it. There are other reasons, of course, but this is undoubtedly the main one. It was certainly the reason why I gave up practising the Faith as a young man. *Because I was slack!*

Some people say it's to do with *the priests ... those evil priests!* From where I stand as a priest, I would be more tempted to say – *it's those bishops, or cardinals, or maybe, yes maybe ... those parishioners!* When I put the blame for my own wrongdoing, for my own dereliction of duty on others, I am on very shaky ground. Those priests and bishops won't be there when I stand before the Lord for my final judgment. Their wrongdoing, their undeniable wrongdoing, won't be the subject of the Lord's conversation with me.

No, when your moment comes to stand before the Lord the judgment will centre entirely on you, and only on you. The Lord will say, *I will judge those others when the time comes. Today I am judging YOU.'*

And wouldn't it be a shock if the Lord pointed out that some of *your* behaviour had caused others, especially your children, not to practise the Faith!? You did everything for them: drove them to ballet lessons, took them to football and cricket training, sacrificed to put them through Uni. You even had them baptised and confirmed. You did everything except pass on the Faith.

Oh, and while we are at it, you are not too *busy* to go to Mass. You're *just slack*, admit it. You have time for everything except God. And if you are a parent of young children, you're teaching them to have time for everything except God, too.

Fortunately, while you're going about your many interests and commitments there are still some good people, some far busier than you, who find time to give God his due and make it to Mass on Sunday. These are the people holding this fragile world together at the moment but they are getting old and fewer in number.

So please, spare me those embarrassing, silly excuses. It's time to get real about all this. No one can make you go to Mass but don't insult God with silly excuses. Just say it like it is: *I'm slack.* At least then there is some hope you might become 'unslack'. Priests and bishops will *always* be causing some outrage or other. You can't do anything about that. They are but weak men with an awesome calling from God. Parishioners will *always* be causing some scandal or other – you can't do anything about that either. And you will *always* be too busy to go to Mass if you are looking for excuses.

Please, stop blaming others for your own failings and start owning up to your 'slackness'. Get real with God; get real with your faith; get real with yourself – while there is still time.

## A Man of Few Words

Pope Francis to Vatican employees, 23-12-2021

Let us ask for the intercession of Saint Joseph: he is "competent" in the field of work! But not only this. In fact, he is first and foremost the guardian of Jesus and the Virgin Mary. And, therefore, he is also the patron saint of the Church. ... You can entrust to him certain situations that are rather complicated, when you realise that your own strength is not enough, that there are no solutions at hand. Then you can turn to Saint Joseph in prayer. He is a man of few words – in the Gospel he never speaks, there are no words of Joseph – of few words but of many deeds. Try it. A man who listens to God's will and puts it into practice, without hesitation. I always pray to him, for this need, that other, and he always answers.

Vatican.va

# The Glorious Mysteries

*Rosarium Virginis Mariae, on The Most Holy Rosary, Pope John Paul II, 2002 (n.23)*

"The contemplation of Christ's face cannot stop at the image of the Crucified One. He is the Risen One!" The Rosary has always expressed this knowledge born of faith and invited the believer to pass beyond the darkness of the Passion in order to gaze upon Christ's glory in the Resurrection and Ascension. Contemplating the Risen One, Christians *rediscover the reasons for their own faith* and relive the joy not only of those to whom Christ appeared – the Apostles, Mary Magdalene and the disciples on the road to Emmaus – but also *the joy of Mary*, who must have had an equally intense experience of the new life of her glorified Son. In the Ascension, Christ was raised in glory to the right hand of the Father, while Mary herself would be raised to that same glory in the Assumption, enjoying beforehand, by a unique privilege, the destiny reserved for all the just at the resurrection of the dead. Crowned in glory – as she appears in the last glorious mystery – Mary shines forth as Queen of the Angels and Saints, the anticipation and the supreme realization of the eschatological state of the Church. At the centre of this unfolding sequence of the glory of the Son and the Mother, the Rosary sets before us the third glorious mystery, Pentecost, which reveals the face of the Church as a family gathered together with Mary, enlivened by the powerful outpouring of the Spirit and ready for the mission of evangelization. The contemplation of this scene, like that of the other glorious mysteries, ought to lead the faithful to an ever greater appreciation of their new life in Christ, lived in the heart of the Church, a life of which the scene of Pentecost itself is the great "icon". The glorious mysteries thus lead the faithful to *greater hope for the eschatological goal* towards which they journey as members of the pilgrim People of God in history. This can only impel them to bear courageous witness to that "good news" which gives meaning to their entire existence.

"In the spiritual life,  
you must take one step forward  
each day  
in a vertical line,  
from the bottom up."

**St Pio of Pietrelcina**

## Decision Made

**Cardinal George Pell, in Prison Journal, Volume 3:  
7 March 2020 entry**

In any eventuality, the Christian teaching is clear, not at all ambiguous. Enemies and opponents, real or imagined, malign or confused, are to be forgiven. The decision has been made, and it has to continue to be made, even when the emotions are rebellious. I forgive.

George Cardinal Pell, *Prison Journal, Volume 3* (Ignatius Press, 2021), p.253. [www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com)

## Young and Old

**Pope Francis, General Audience, 20-04-2022**

And on this point, allow me to offer some advice to parents: please, bring your children, young children, closer to the elderly, always bring them closer. And when the elderly person is ill, a bit out of their mind, always approach them: let them know that this is our flesh, that this is what has made it possible for us to be here. Please don't push the elderly away. And if there is no other option than to send them to a nursing home, please visit them and bring the children to see them: they are the honour of our civilisation, the old people who opened the doors. And many times, the children forget this.

... Please cherish the elderly. And [even] if their mind goes, cherish the old. Because they are the presence of history, the presence of my family, and thanks to them I am here, we can all say: thanks to you, grandfather and grandmother, I am alive. Please don't leave them alone.

Vatican.va

## 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 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

"To be alone with Jesus in adoration and intimate union with Him is the greatest gift of love – the tender love of Our Father in Heaven."

**St Teresa of Calcutta**

## Loving and Serving

**St Teresa of Calcutta**

In each of our lives Jesus comes as the Bread of Life – to be eaten, to be consumed by us. This is how He loves us.

Then Jesus comes in our human life as the hungry one, the other, hoping to be fed with the Bread of our life, our hearts by loving, and our hands by serving.

In loving and serving, we prove that we have been created in the likeness of God, for God is Love and when we love we are like God. This is what Jesus meant when He said, "Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect."

## 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**