

Into the Deep

Issue 235

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

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The Darkness of the Tomb

Pope Francis, Easter Vigil homily 2020

The grave is the place where no one who enters ever leaves. But Jesus emerged for us; he rose for us, to bring life where there was death, to begin a new story in the very place where a stone had been placed. He, who rolled away the stone that sealed the entrance of the tomb, can also remove the stones in our hearts. So, let us not give in to resignation; let us not place a stone before hope. We can and must hope, because God is faithful. He did not abandon us; he visited us and entered into our situations of pain, anguish and death. His light dispelled the darkness of the tomb: today he wants that light to penetrate even to the darkest corners of our lives. Dear sister, dear brother, even if in your heart you have buried hope, do not give up: God is greater. Darkness and death do not have the last word. Be strong, for with God nothing is lost!

Vatican.va

Celebrate Easter with Christ!

Pope Francis, Easter Vigil homily 16-04-2022

Brothers and sisters our hope has a name: the name of Jesus. He entered the tomb of our sin; he descended to those depths where we feel most lost; he wove his way through the tangles of our fears, bore the weight of our burdens and from the dark abyss of death restored us to life and turned our mourning into joy. Let us celebrate Easter with Christ! He is alive! Today, too, he walks in our midst, changes us and sets us free. Thanks to him, evil has been robbed of its power; failure can no longer hold us back from starting anew; and death has become a passage to the stirrings of new life. For with Jesus, the Risen Lord, no night will last forever; and even in the darkest night, in that darkness, the morning star continues to shine.

Vatican.va

For You

Catechism of the Catholic Church, n.605

There is not,
never has been,
and never will be
a single human being
for whom Christ
did not suffer.

(Council of Quiercy, 853 AD)

Apology

My humblest apologies to all those who have ordered copies of Fr John Speekman's book *Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime*, and still have not received them. Printing has been hounded by a series of unforeseen problems, from machine issues to an error in the batch, but we expect to have the final product ready to ship within days! I will start posting them out as soon as I have them, I promise! Thank you for your patience!

Ed.

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

The Joy Jesus Brings

Pope Francis, Divine Mercy Sunday 24-04-2022

First, God's mercy gives joy, a special joy, the joy of knowing that we have been freely forgiven. When, on the evening of Easter, the disciples see Jesus and hear him say for the first time, "Peace be with you", they rejoice. They were locked behind closed doors out of fear; but they were also closed in on themselves, burdened by a sense of failure. They were disciples who had abandoned their Master; at the moment of his arrest, they had run away. Peter even denied him three times, and one of their number – one from among them! – had betrayed him. They had good reason to feel not only afraid, but useless; they had failed. In the past, certainly, they had made courageous choices. They had followed the Master with enthusiasm, commitment and generosity. Yet in the end, everything had happened so fast. Fear prevailed and they committed the great sin: they left Jesus alone at his most tragic hour. Before Easter, they had thought that they were destined for greatness; they argued about who would be the greatest among them ... Now they have hit rock bottom.

In this climate, they hear for the first time, "Peace be with you!" The disciples ought to have felt shame, yet they rejoice. Why? Because seeing his face and hearing his greeting turned their attention away from themselves and towards Jesus. As the Gospel tells us, "the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord" (Jn 20:20). They were distracted from themselves and their failures and attracted by his gaze, that brimmed not with severity but with mercy. Christ did not reproach them for what they had done, but showed them his usual kindness. And this revives them, fills their hearts with the peace they had lost and makes them new persons, purified by a forgiveness that is utterly unmerited.

That is the joy Jesus brings.

Vatican.va

We Are Guilty

Catechism of the Catholic Church, n.598

We must regard as guilty all those who continue to relapse into their sins. Since our sins made the Lord Christ suffer the torment of the cross, those who plunge themselves into disorders and crimes crucify the Son of God anew in their hearts (for he is in them) and hold him up to contempt. And it can be seen that our crime in this case is greater in us than in the Jews. As for them, according to the witness of the Apostle, "None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." We, however, profess to know him. And when we deny him by our deeds, we in some way seem to lay violent hands on him. (Roman Catechism I, 5, 11)

Catechism of the Catholic Church, n.598

Nor did demons crucify him; it is you who have crucified him and crucify him still, when you delight in your vices and sins. (St. Francis of Assisi)

"At the very thought of God, one immediately feels a certain delightful emotion of the heart, which testifies that God is God of the human heart".

St Francis de Sales

Catechism in a Year

The Catechism in a Year podcast by Fr Mike Schmitz, launched on 1 January 2023 by Ascension Press, is doing well! So far:

- 24 million downloads/views (podcast downloads/YouTube views)
- #1 chart position on Apple in all categories (Dec 30 – Jan 11)
- Top 4 chart position on Apple in Religion & Spirituality (current)
- 160k Facebook group members
- 110k YouTube channel subscribers.

It's never too late to begin! It's a great way to learn more about your faith each day.

Ed.

"For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

Fr Speakman's Book Available for Sale!

Thank you to those who have already ordered Fr John Speakman's book, *Things Serious, Silly and Sublime*. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did!

To order YOUR copy:

- Contact ITD by mail or email (details on p.12 of each ITD). Remember to include your name and address!
- Include payment or proof of payment. Payment accepted via cash, cheque or Direct Deposit to ITD (details on p.12 of each ITD) – remember to include your name as reference!

The soft-cover, 89-page book costs only \$15.

Add postage according to your choice as follows:

- Standard envelope, no padding or tracking: \$3.
- Standard envelope, no padding, with tracking: \$5.
- Parcel Post bag, with padding and tracking: \$10. This Parcel postage will be the same whether you buy 1 book or up to 10 books. Consider buying extra for your friends and family. It would make a lovely gift!

For international postage, please email me to advise the number of books and the postal address *first*, and I will calculate postage *before* you pay.

For more information about *Things Serious, Silly and Sublime* and for excerpts from the book, see Jan/Feb ITD p.10 and March ITD p.2.

Proceeds from the sale of the book at this stage go to ITD, thanks to Fr Speakman, so you have double the reason to buy the book!

Ed.

What It's About

From the back cover of the book, *Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime*, by Fr John Speakman:

Things Serious, Silly and Sublime is a collection of Fr Speakman's thoughts and reflections from his time as a hospital chaplain and parish priest.

It gives readers an over-the-shoulder look at encounters in the life of a priest, where each interaction becomes a source of deeper reflection, even those moments that seem, at first glance, ordinary or routine.

Fr Speakman's pithy recollections and personal insights not only reveal a quirky sense of humour and obvious love of people, but give readers a sense of his deep Catholic faith.

This engaging little book will entertain, challenge, invite, and console; and ultimately draw readers closer to the heart of Christ.

Invite New Readers for a FREE Copy!

All new subscribers to ITD in the month of April – and those who invited them to subscribe – will go into a draw to receive a free copy of Fr John's book.

The Power of the Chaplet of Mercy

From the book, *Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime*,
by Fr John Speakman

It had been some time since I had heard one of those big Confessions of which only the long-time lapsed Catholic is capable. In a fit of piousness I decided to say a mini-novena of the Chaplet of Mercy – nine Chaplets in a row.

Next day I was standing beside the bed of a Catholic patient in intensive care when a hand from the bed behind me reached out from beneath the blanket and grabbed my leg. *Father, would you hear my Confession?*

Of course, I will, I replied. I checked my list but he was not there. *You are a Catholic?* I asked. *Yes, I am, Father, but I haven't practised for many years.* I whispered to myself: *Jesus I trust in You.*



Parish and Family News

Here in West Warrnambool, St Pius X parish, we are really blessed with two young priests and reverent Masses. Fr John Corrigan, 11 years ordained, and Fr Bill Lowry ordained last July, are both at our presbytery. Fr John the older, is at St Joseph's; Fr O'Toole at Our Lady Help of Christians, retired last year. So the 3 priests manage 7 parishes. Our parish has Confessions Monday morning and Saturday, Our Lady Help of Christians has Monday to Friday, and St Joe's Friday. We at St Pius X have a beautiful chapel of Perpetual Adoration.

Enclosed a cheque to help with your work. I love the Foreword of Fr Speekman's book (Jan/Feb ITD, p.10), especially – Pray for me when I am gone. As I do for my dear husband, 2 sons, only daughter and her 2 sons, Mum and Dad. Mum who gave me birth, died when I was 15 months old, leaving Dad with 7 children 8½ years old to 3 weeks, in the Great Depression in Holland. My wonderful mum that reared me came in as a nanny/housekeeper. In time, my dad asked her to become mother to his children. They married in 1937. I love her so much. Her name was Aleida, same as my birth mother. She always felt close to her, as if she was related. Morning and night prayers on our knees in front of the crucifix and painting of my mother, asking her to make us good children. She wore my mother's wedding ring. I was – and am – so blest!

In your May 2022 issue of ITD you had an article on Blessed Titus Brandsma – who was related to Mum who reared me – another long story!

Cynthia Lourey, Warrnambool, Victoria

A Particle of His Cross

Fr Mike Schmitz, Bible in a Year, Day 351

In his letter to the Colossians, chapter 1 verse 24, Saint Paul says these words that are very intriguing, mysterious: he says, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, that is the church." ...

Jesus Christ suffered once for all. But that you and I might have the honour, the dignity, the privilege, of participating in his redeeming work, Jesus Christ offers us, he gives us a share, a particle of his cross that we might participate in his work of redemption. Which is just incredible! And that's the truth that we just need to recognise, especially for those of us who suffer, for those of us who find ourselves in places of deep and profound suffering. We might not know *why* this is happening, but we do know *what to do with it* – to unite it to Christ's suffering and say, Lord God, use this, Jesus use this, for the salvation of the world, for the Father's glory, and that this world may be transformed into the Kingdom of God among us.

Transcribed (Ed.) from Bible in a Year podcast by Ascension

I Believe in Jesus Christ

Catechism of the Catholic Church

422 'But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.' This is 'the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God': God has visited his people. He has fulfilled the promise he made to Abraham and his descendants. He acted far beyond all expectation - he has sent his own 'beloved Son'.

423 We believe and confess that Jesus of Nazareth, born a Jew of a daughter of Israel at Bethlehem at the time of King Herod the Great and the emperor Caesar Augustus, a carpenter by trade, who died crucified in Jerusalem under the procurator Pontius Pilate during the reign of the emperor Tiberius, is the eternal Son of God made man. He 'came from God', 'descended from heaven', and 'came in the flesh'. For 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father... and from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace.'

424 Moved by the grace of the Holy Spirit and drawn by the Father, we believe in Jesus and confess: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' On the rock of this faith confessed by St. Peter, Christ built his Church.

Joseph's Easter Dream

J&K Canavan

I had a dream, Mary, like the one that you had at Christmas. It was also about Our Son Jesus, who on Good Friday gave the Greatest Gift of all to mankind – "His Life". But in this dream Mary, so few people understood the true meaning of Easter. So many people disbelieved and doubted the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Son Jesus. They were looking forward to Easter as only a break away from work – a long weekend. Oh Mary, how the world had changed! The evil one had deceived many of Our Son's children. I looked on in disbelief as both young and old exchanged gifts of chocolate and talked of the Easter Bunny, rather than remembering the Great Gift of Life Our Son had given them. They did not realise the intense suffering and pain Jesus endured for all mankind! Rather than spending time with Our Son, many chose to spend their time shopping, gambling and participating in sporting events over these most sacred days. Unfortunately, Good Friday had for many become just a good holiday. I then saw Our Son nailed to the cross, crowned with thorns and His eyes were filled with tears as He looked towards his Heavenly Father and said: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Mary, when I suddenly awoke from this dream, I fervently prayed: Please, let none of what I dreamt come true.

This Easter, celebrate the Holy Days, not the holidays.

Divinemercy.com.au

Asteroid Naming

By Tiziana Campisi, VaticanNews.va 01 March 2023

562971 Johannhagen, 551878 Stoeger, 565184 Janusz and 560974 Ugoboncompagni. These are the names of the four asteroids named after three astronomers from the Vatican Observatory, and Pope Gregory XIII.

Pope Gregory, who was born Ugo Boncompagni, is the Pope to whom we owe the reform of the calendar (later known as the Gregorian Calendar) and the beginning of the tradition of papal astronomers and observatories. The astronomers after whom three celestial bodies have been named are the Jesuits Johann Hagen, who was director of the Vatican Observatory from 1906 to 1930, Bill Stoeger, cosmologist and theologian, and Robert Janusz, currently on the staff of the Vatican Observatory. The names of the four 'famous' asteroids were published by the International Astronomical Union in its latest bulletin on 7 February.

More than thirty asteroids today bear the names of Jesuit religious. Among them is Fr. Christopher Clavius, who was commissioned by Gregory XIII to work on the calendar project – 'his' asteroid is called 20237 Clavius – and Fr. Giovanni Battista Riccioli (1598-1671) who developed the lunar nomenclature system still used today; the now famous 'Sea of Tranquility' where Apollo 11 landed, for example, owes its name to him.

Since Jesuits have travelled extensively for centuries, there are other asteroids named after Jesuits who lived in different parts of the world, such as the Philippines (4866 Badillo), Paraguay (6438 Suarez), China (31124 Slavicek), the Democratic Republic of Congo (23443 Kikwaya) and Argentina (2490 Bussolini).

Several other asteroids were named by astronomers of the Specola Vaticana, among them 302849 Richardboyle, 119248 Corbally, 14429 Coyne, 4597 Consolmagno, 23443 Kikwaya and 11266 Macke.

According to the International Astronomical Union, the naming of a particular asteroid (or minor planet) can take, in some cases, decades. When a new minor planet is discovered, it is given a provisional name based on the date of discovery. When the object's orbit is determined in such a way that its position can be reliably predicted in the distant future, usually after it has been observed four or more times as it approaches Earth, then it is assigned a definitive number, issued in succession by the IAU's Minor Planet Centre. At this point its discoverer is invited to suggest a name. There are also guidelines in this regard: names of pets or names of a commercial nature are not allowed and names of individuals or events known primarily for political or military reasons cannot be used until 100 years after the death of the individual or the date of the event.

Engine of Evangelisation

Pope Francis, General Audience 22-02-2023

When Jesus says to His disciples – and also to us – ‘Go!’, He is not just communicating a word. No. He communicates *the Holy Spirit* at the same time, because it is only thanks to Him, thanks to the Spirit, that one can receive Christ's mission and carry it out. The Apostles, in fact, out of fear, remain closed up in the Upper Room until the day of Pentecost arrives and the Holy Spirit descends upon them. And in that moment the fear is gone, and with His power those fishermen, mostly unlettered, will change the world. ‘But if they can't speak...?’ But it is the word of the Spirit, the strength of the Spirit that bears them onward to change the world. The proclamation of the Gospel, therefore, is only realized in the power of the Spirit, who precedes the missionaries and prepares hearts: He is ‘the engine of evangelisation.’

We discover this in the Acts of the Apostles, where on every page we see that *the protagonist of the proclamation* is not Peter, Paul, Stephen, or Philip, but is the Holy Spirit. ...

Each of us can answer within ourselves. How many of us pray to the Spirit? ‘No, Father, I pray to Our Lady, I pray to the Saints, I pray to Jesus, sometimes I pray the Our Father, I pray to the Father...’ And the Holy Spirit? Don't you pray to the Holy Spirit, who is the one who moves your heart, who brings you consolation, who brings you the desire to evangelize, undertake mission? Do I let myself be guided by Him, who invites me not to close in on myself but to bear Jesus, to bear witness to the primacy of God's consolation over the desolation of the world? May our Lady, who has understood this well, help us to understand it.

Vatican.va

Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Publications

Saint Faustina's Diary (Divine Mercy in My Soul), contains at least 14 passages in which Our Lord is quoted as requesting that a "Feast of Mercy" be officially established in the Church.

There is a very close link between the meaning of the Divine Mercy image and the liturgy of the first Sunday after Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday). On that day the Gospel reading throughout the Church is about the appearance of the Risen Christ in the Upper Room, and about the institution of the sacrament of Reconciliation. The rays of blood and water flowing from the Saviour's pierced Heart and the wounds on His hands and feet recall the events of Good Friday.

"I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy." (Diary 299)

"I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened." (Diary 699)

"Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy." (Diary 965)

The conditions required to receive such a great grace are: to place complete trust in God, to carry out acts of mercy, to be in a state of grace (having received the sacrament of Confession), and to receive Holy Communion.

The preparation for the Feast is to be a novena consisting of the recitation of the Divine Mercy chaplet for 9 days, beginning on Good Friday. Jesus said, *"By this novena, I will grant every possible grace to souls."* (Diary 796)

On Sunday, 30th April 2000 (the canonisation of Saint Faustina and Feast of Divine Mercy), Pope John Paul II announced to the world, "It is important that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter (first Sunday after Easter), which from now on throughout the Church will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday'."

Divinemercy.com.au

The Chaplet of Mercy

Divine Mercy Publications

Jesus said to Saint Faustina, *"Say unceasingly the chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy ... I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy."* (Diary 687) *"The souls that will say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death."* (Diary 754)

The chaplet can be said on ordinary rosary beads.

We begin with the Our Father, Hail Mary and the Apostles' Creed.

Then on the 5 large beads:

"Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."

On the 10 small beads:

"For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

Conclude (3 times) with:

"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

Prayed on ordinary rosary beads, the Chaplet is an intercessory prayer that extends the offering of the Eucharist. It may be said at any time, but Our Lord specifically requested that it be used as a novena on the nine days before the Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday which is the first Sunday after Easter).

"At the hour of their death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the indulgence is the same." (Diary 811)

"When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the merciful Saviour." (Diary 1541)

Divinemercy.com.au

Every Day

Pope Francis, General Audience 22-03-2023

Paul VI teaches that *the zeal for evangelization springs from holiness*, it springs from the heart that is filled with God. Nourished by prayer and above all by love for the Eucharist, evangelization in turn increases holiness in the people who carry it out. At the same time, without holiness, the word of the evangelizer "will have difficulty in touching the heart of modern man", and "risks being vain and sterile". (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, n.76)

Therefore, we must be aware that the people to whom evangelization is addressed are not only others, those who profess other faiths or who profess none, but also *ourselves*, believers in Christ and active members of the People of God. And we must convert every day, receive the word of God and change our life: every day.

Vatican.va

My Lord and My God!

Pope Francis, Divine Mercy Sunday 24-04-2022

Peace be with you! The Lord says these words a third time when, eight days later, he appears to the disciples and strengthens the flagging faith of Thomas. Thomas wants to see and touch. The Lord is not offended by Thomas's disbelief, but comes to his aid: "Put your finger here and see my hands". These are not words of defiance but of mercy. Jesus understands Thomas's difficulty. He does not treat Thomas with harshness, and the apostle is deeply moved by this kindness. From a disbeliever, he becomes a believer, and makes the simplest and finest confession of faith: "My Lord and my God!". These are beautiful words. We can make them our own and repeat them throughout the day, especially when, like Thomas, we experience doubts and difficulties.

Vatican.va

Passion for the Gospel

Pope Francis, General Audience 29-03-2023

The passion for the Gospel is not a matter of comprehension or studies – you can study all the theology you want, you can study the Bible and all that, and become atheist or worldly, it is not a question of studies; in history there have been many atheist theologians. Study is useful but it does not generate the new life of grace; rather, to convert means going through that same experience of “fall and resurrection” that Saul/Paul lived and which is at the origin of the transfiguration of his apostolic zeal.

Indeed, as Saint Ignatius says: “For it is not knowing much, but realizing and relishing things interiorly, that contents and satisfies”. Every one of us, think. “I am a religious” – “Fine” – “I pray” – “Yes” – “I try to obey the commandments” – “Yes” – “But where is Jesus in your life?” – “Ah, no, I do the things the Church commands”.

But Jesus, where is he? Have you encountered Jesus, have you spoken with Jesus? If you pick up the Gospel or talk with Jesus, do you remember who Jesus is? And this is something that we very often lack; a Christianity, I would say, not without Jesus, but with an abstract Jesus... No! How Jesus entered your life, how he entered the life of Paul, and when Jesus enters, everything changes.

Many times, we have heard comments on people: “But look at him, he was a wretch and now he is a good man, she is a good woman... who changed them?” Jesus, they found Jesus.

Has your Christian life changed? “No, more or less, yes...”. If Jesus did not enter your life, it did not change. You can be Christian only from the outside. No, Jesus must enter and this changes you...

Vatican.va

Bringing Water

Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal Household, First Lenten Sermon 2023

In one of my first sermons to the Papal Household, 43 years ago, I said in the presence of Saint John Paul II: “All my life I continued to do the humble job I did as a child.”

And I explained why. My maternal grandparents farmed a vast hilly land as sharecroppers. In June or July, there was the harvest, all done by hand, with the sickle, hunched over in the sun. It was very hard work! My little cousins and I were in charge of constantly bringing water to the reapers to drink. That’s what, I said, I’ve been doing for the rest of my life. The reapers have changed, they are now the workers in the Lord’s vineyard, and the water is different, it is now the Word of God. A job, mine, much less tiring, to tell the truth, than that of the workers in the field, but also, I hope, useful and somehow necessary.

Cantalamessa.org

“If you are suffering from a bad man’s injustice, forgive him, lest there be two bad men.”

St Augustine

We Have to Judge

Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal Household, First Lenten Sermon 2023

Jesus says: “Do not judge, in order not to be judged. ... Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, while you don’t notice the beam in your eye?” (Mt 7:1-3).

But can we live without ever judging? The ability to judge is part of our mental structure, it is a gift from God. In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus’ command: “Do not judge and you will not be judged” is immediately followed – as if to clarify the meaning of these words – by the command “Do not condemn and you will not be condemned.” (Lk 6:37) Therefore, it is not a question of eliminating judgment from our heart, but rather of removing the poison from our judgment! That is, hatred, condemnation, outright rejection.

A parent, a superior, a confessor, a judge – anyone who has some responsibility over others – must judge. Sometimes, indeed, judging is precisely the type of service one is called to exercise in society or in the Church. The strength of Christian love lies in the fact that it is capable of changing judgment from an act of non-love, turning it into an act of love. Not with our own strength, but thanks to the love that “has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us” (Rom 5:5).

Cantalamessa.org

The Age of the Church

One of the many things I have learned from listening to Fr Mike's Bible in a Year podcasts, is about The Great Adventure Bible Timeline, which gives you the "big picture" view of the Bible, and God's plan for the salvation of the whole world. The Bible Timeline (developed by Jeff Cavins) that Ascension Press uses, takes us all the way from Adam through to the Apostles and the early Church, by dividing the story of salvation into 12 ages or periods. They are: Early World, Patriarchs, Egypt and Exodus, Desert Wanderings, Conquest and Judges, Royal Kingdom, Divided Kingdom, Exile, Return, Maccabean Revolt, Messianic Fulfillment and The Church.

The Bible in all of its 73 books, from beginning to the end, is a story of love, a story of salvation. This story of salvation is the fundamental story from which all other stories proceed and find their meaning.

As Catholics, it is crucial for us to know and understand the flow of God's communication and interaction with man from Creation, to the Cross of Christ and to his return, and how we fit into that plan and story.

What I have learnt from this timeline, and from Fr Mike of course, is that the Story of Salvation is not finished, and that we, that is mankind, are currently living within it, in the final phase known as the age of the Church. It continues with the work of the Holy Spirit through the Church. Were you aware of this? Well, I wasn't, and it never dawned on me as a practising adult Catholic.

As often as the Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out (ccc, 1364). God is still working, still creating, redeeming and sanctifying us. The Church is not some afterthought as it were, created by God to deal just with the problem of original sin after the Fall, but is absolutely essential and integral to his divine plan. She exists and extends the mystery of Jesus Christ throughout time, and she has received from him everything that he has accomplished for the salvation of the world.

Having been made aware of this, I now realise the utmost importance of truly understanding her mystery and reality, nature, origin and source; so that I can more fully grasp her all-important mission and reason for existence in this fallen world. Thanks to the Catechism I have always had a sense that the Church is everything, the goal of everything here on earth because through, with and in her alone the whole of humanity has access to a share in God's divine life and love. She alone is the Sacrament of salvation, and apart from her there is no salvation at all.

Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria

Hot Cross Buns

Wikipedia

A hot cross bun is a spiced sweet bun usually made with fruit, marked with the cross on the top, and has been traditionally eaten on Good Friday in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, India, Pakistan, Malta and in the United States. They are available all year round in some places, including the UK.

The bun marks the end of the Christian season of Lent and different parts of the hot cross bun have a certain meaning, including the cross representing the crucifixion of Jesus, and the spices inside signifying the spices used to embalm him at his burial and may also include orange peel to reflect the bitterness of his time on the Cross. ...

One theory is that the contemporary hot cross bun originates from St Albans, England, where in 1361 Brother Thomas Rodcliffe, a 14th century monk at St Alban's Abbey, developed a similar recipe called an 'Alban Bun' and distributed the bun to the local poor on Good Friday. ...

The first definite record of hot cross buns comes from a London street cry: "Good Friday comes this month, the old woman runs. With one or two a penny hot cross buns", which appeared in Poor Robin's Almanac for 1733. The line "One a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns" appears in the English nursery rhyme "Hot Cross Buns" published in the London Chronicle for 2-4 June 1767.

Good Friday in Our Lives

Venerable Fulton Sheen, Meditations on the Fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary: The Crucifixion

Our Lord spent thirty years of His life obeying, three years teaching, three hours redeeming! But how did He redeem? Suppose a golden chalice is stolen from an altar and beaten into a large ash tray. Before that gold can be returned to the altar, it must be thrown into a fire, where the dross is burned away; then the chalice must be recast, and finally blessed and restored to its holy use.

Sinful man is like that chalice which was delivered over to profane uses. He lost his Godlike resemblance and his high destiny as a child of God. So our blessed Lord took unto Himself a human nature, making it stand for all of us, plunged it into the fires of Calvary to have the dross of sin burned and purged away. Then, by rising from the dead, He became the new head of the new humanity, according to which we are all to be patterned.

The cross reveals that unless there is a Good Friday in our lives, there will never be an Easter Sunday. Unless there is a crown of thorns, there will never be the halo of light. Unless there is the scourged body, there will never be a glorified one. Death to the lower self is the condition of resurrection to the higher self. The world says to us, as it said to Him on the cross: "Come down, and we will believe!" But if He had come down, He never would have saved us. It is human to come down; it is divine to hang there.

A broken heart, O Saviour of the world, is love's best cradle! Smite my own, as Moses did the rock, that Thy love may enter in!

The Core of our Faith

Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience 17-10-2012

It is no accident that Blessed John Paul II wanted the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* – a secure norm for teaching the faith and a reliable source for a renewed catechesis – to be patterned after the Creed. ...

Today we live in a society that has changed profoundly, even compared with the recent past, and that is in constant motion. The process of secularization and a widespread nihilistic mentality, according to which everything is relative, have had a profound impact on the general mindset. Thus, life is often lived lightly without clear ideals and solid hopes, and within fluid and passing family and social ties. Above all, the new generations are not being formed to seek the truth and the profound meaning of life that goes beyond all that is passing. Nor are they being formed to have stable affections and attachments, and to trust.

On the contrary, relativism leads to having no firm foundation. Suspicion and inconstancy cause ruptures in human relationships, while life is lived in experiments that do not last, without assuming responsibility.

If individualism and relativism seem to dominate the minds of many of our contemporaries, it cannot be said that believers remain totally immune to these dangers by which we are confronted in handing on the faith. ... Today, Christians often do not even know the core of their own Catholic faith, the Creed. This can leave the door open to certain syncretism and religious relativism that lacks clarity about the truths we must believe and about Christianity's unique power to save. Today we are not so far away from the risk of building a "do-it-yourself" religion.

We must instead return to God, to the God of Jesus Christ. We must rediscover the message of the Gospel and make it enter more deeply into our consciences and into our daily lives.

[Translation by Diane Montagna] Zenit.org 18-10-2012

"Jesus Christ, crucified and buried, is risen with His glorified body.
Jesus is risen so that we too, believing in Him, may have eternal life.
This proclamation is at the heart of the Gospel message."

Pope Benedict XVI, 12-04-2009

Catholic College imposes transgender lie on Victorian community

By Kirralie Smith, of Binary Australia, 15-02-2023

Mazenod College in Victoria is actively denying science and rejecting the truth. The Catholic Boys College is welcoming back a male teacher as a woman, insisting all staff, students and community members need to comply.

In a letter to the parents, Principal Dr Paul Shannon defies logic by insisting that all involved with the school participate in the lie that a man is now a woman.

It is an outright lie to suggest a man can become a woman. Catholic teaching affirms the same truth that science does, there is male and there is female. No one can change their sex. It is impossible. It is written on every cell in your body.

A man who claims he *feels* like a woman is simply appropriating stereotypes. How on earth can a man feel like something he is not. Can he feel like a tree? A cat? A dolphin? No, he can only pretend. He can say he feels like a woman but he will never know what it is to be a woman.

Mazenod College is not only denying science, it is imposing a lie on their school community and expecting everyone to go along with it. What message does it send to young boys who are in the precious stages of forming their identity? Is a woman simply a feeling, a stereotype, a caricature that can be appropriated with costumes, drugs and surgery? How very offensive and deceptive.

The position this school has taken is anti-science.

Binary.org

Unbelievably Ridiculous

The above story is just ridiculous. Incredible. Who would have thought that a Catholic school would go along with something like this? It's unbelievable! And no, unfortunately it's not an April Fool's joke.

In the principal's letter, dated 27 January 2023, he explains: "Recently, one of our teachers informed us of their decision to undertake a transition and identify in the future as a female", and, "the teacher has requested they be referred to by a different name from this point onwards".

After the school consulted with Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, they "resolved to continue to welcome the teacher as a valued member of our community." They based their decision on "the Catholic belief that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society" and urge the school community to show "utmost respect ... for the staff member concerned". Of course we believe in the dignity of every human person! But that doesn't mean we accept and affirm every human behaviour or decision or misguided belief! What are they thinking?

Principal Dr Shannon reassures parents that this decision will not change the school's "commitment to Catholic teaching". He offers those with "diverse views" (I assume he means those who think men cannot become women) "assistance processing their thoughts".

The mind boggles. This Catholic school is going to go along with the idea of a man "transitioning" to become a woman (as if that were possible), and they are going to "assist" parents and students to accept this nonsense and refer to him as a woman, all while claiming to still uphold Catholic teaching.

I can't help wondering if parents and students who refuse to go along with this will be asked/invited to leave. The inclusivity of Catholic schools is unlikely to be inclusive of those who reject the anti-Catholic, irrational, anti-science, anti-biology decisions made by the school. It's like another episode of The Emperor's New Clothes.

Ed.

Eucharistic Adoration, Gippsland

Bass	Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Bairnsdale	1 st Friday after 9.10am Mass
Heyfield	1 st Fridays 10am – 4.30pm
Cowwarr Ord.	Wednesday (Mass 10am) – 11am 1 st Saturday (Mass 10am) – 11am
Churchill	Saturday (9.30am Mass) – 11am
Cranbourne	Fri & Sat in church: (9.30 Mass) – 11am
Drouin	Thursday 10am – 11am 1 st Friday 4pm–8pm (every 2 nd month, Dec. on)
Lakes Entrance	Friday 9.30am – 11am
Maffra	Wednesday (5pm Mass) – 6pm
Moe	Wednesday (9am Mass) – 10.30am
Morwell	Friday 10am-11am (Sacred Heart Church)
Orbost	Wednesday (9.30am Mass) – 11am
Rosedale	First Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Sale	Friday 11.30am–12pm
Trafalgar	Wed & 1st Sat: (9.30am Mass) – 10.45am
Traralgon	Wednesday 11am – 12 noon
Warragul	Saturday 10am – 11am 1 st Fri 4pm–8pm (every 2 nd month, Jan. on)
Wonthaggi	2 nd Friday (9.30am Mass) – 10.30am

The Same Jesus

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Like Mary, let us be full of zeal to go in haste to give Jesus to others. She was full of grace when, at the annunciation, she received Jesus. Like her, we too become full of grace every time we receive Holy Communion. It is the same Jesus whom she received and whom we receive at Mass. As soon as she received Him she went with haste to give Him to John. For us also, as soon as we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, let us go in haste to give Him to our sisters, to our poor, to the sick, to the dying, to the lepers, to the unwanted, and the unloved. By this we make Jesus present in the world today.

I Will Love You

St Francis de Sales

Whatever may happen, Lord,
you who hold everything in your hands
and whose ways are all justice and truth, ...
I will love you, Lord, ...
I will love you here, O my God;
I will hope always in your mercy
and ever repeat your praise...
O Lord Jesus, you will always be my hope
and my salvation in the land of the living.

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

- no longer have a voice in 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