

Into the Deep

Issue 240

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

October 2023

ITD Turns 21!

This month Into the Deep turns 21! Thank you to everyone who has supported ITD in various ways over all these years. It may sound like a cliché, but it's so true, "I couldn't have done it without you" – because I need readers, I need supporters, I need donations, I need letter-writers, and I need good old-fashioned encouragement to keep going. Thank you to all who have provided what I need, when I need it – possibly without even realising! I am most grateful.

Please continue to support ITD with letters (I like to know who's out there, who's reading what, and what your thoughts are), with donations (used for printing and postage, which is said to be going up yet again in January), and with prayer (if support dwindles, then we know the time has come for ITD to end). See p.2 for a special thank you gift for donations in October.

Please see if you can distribute ITD to one or two more people, either by hand, by mail, or by email. Each month our numbers go down slightly due to people moving and not giving new addresses, or email addresses being obsolete, or being notified of deaths. Very few are added to the mailing list in their place. Please see what you can do to encourage new readers. Thank you to those who do keep their details up to date.

Remember you can also support ITD by buying Fr Speekman's book! See p.2 for more details. It's a great little read, spiritual and entertaining at the same time, easy to pick up, hard to put down, and the stories linger in your mind long after you've finished.

As Fr Mike Schmitz says at the end of each Bible in a Year and Catechism in a Year podcast – I'm praying for you; please pray for me.

Ed.

Don't Forget

St Alphonsus Liguori

If a person were to suffer insults, beatings, and imprisonment for one of his friends, how distressed he would be to know that his friend remembered nothing of it and did not even want to hear people talk about it.

On the other hand, how gratified would he be to know that his friend always spoke tenderly about it and often thanked him for it.

Thus Jesus Christ is greatly pleased when we recall with loving gratitude his pains and the sorrows and death that he suffered for us.

The Rosary

Rosarium Virginis Mariae, Pope John Paul II (n.16)

The Rosary is both meditation and supplication. Insistent prayer to the Mother of God is based on confidence that her maternal intercession can obtain all things from the heart of her Son. She is "all-powerful by grace".... This is a conviction which, beginning with the Gospel, has grown ever more firm in the experience of the Christian people. ...

When in the Rosary we plead with Mary, the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit, she intercedes for us before the Father who filled her with grace, and before the Son born of her womb, praying with us and for us.

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

Fr Speekman's Book

Thank you to all who have purchased Fr Speekman's book so far. I trust you have enjoyed it! Please let me know your thoughts after having read it. I would love to share your impressions with others.

Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime costs only \$15, and postage starts at only \$3. Contact me for further details and to place your order.

For more information about *Things Serious, Silly and Sublime* and for excerpts from the book, see Jan/Feb ITD p.10, and page 3 of all issues of ITD since March 2023.

Proceeds from the sale of the book at this stage go to ITD, thanks to Fr Speekman, so you have twice the reason to buy the book! Thanks for your support.

Ed.

Book Review

I loved Fr John's analogy of patients in hospital being in the boat on the Lake of Galilee. Loved the stories of ministry to patients, was challenged by his comments on parish life, and was inspired by the call to live closer to Christ. How wonderful to have such an insight into the life of a priest! God bless him, and all who read his book.

E. S., Ballarat, Victoria

The Blurb

From the back of the book

Things Serious, Silly and Sublime is a collection of Fr Speekman'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 Speekman'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.

Get One Free!

Continuing from last month, EVERY person who donates \$100 to ITD in October will receive a FREE copy of *Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime*.

Many ITD readers donate generously around our birthday month, and this is a way to thank you more than usual, with a free copy of Fr Speekman's book.

Ed.

"The Rosary is the prayer that always accompanies my life: it is also the prayer of simple people and saints... it is the prayer of my heart." **Pope Francis**

Thank You!

Thank you for your work on this publication which I receive with thanks. I wanted to commend you on printing Fr Flader's answer to the question about salvation (Sept ITD p.11). He did an excellent job and I'm very heartened to see it in print. I hope to publish something on this topic myself. Let us continue to pray for each other.

Fr Pius Mary Noonan, OSB, Colebrook, Tasmania

September issue: good work! God must be giving you the strength to keep up putting together such a strong package of edifications: blessings.

Rev Dr Paul A McGavin, Sydney, New South Wales

Guard What You Have Received

St Ambrose

Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence.

Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1303

Consecration to Holy Mother Church

Every morning I start my day with three individual prayers to God, the Father, to Jesus, God the Son, and to God, the Holy Spirit. This is immediately followed by a prayer of consecration to the Church, which goes like this: "Holy Mother Church, I place myself under your protection. I commend to you the special care of my whole being and I rely on your motherly care and protection. I consecrate and confide to you my soul and body this day, every day of my life, and at the hour of my death. To you I commit all my hopes and joys, my sorrows and troubles, my life and my death. Through your intercession, may everything I do be pleasing to you and to Jesus, your divine head and spouse."

After reading and reflecting on Fr Speekman's 'little' book, *Things, Serious, Silly and Sublime*, I concluded that all the people that Fr Speekman ministered to would have considered themselves very blessed to have him as their priest. As a humble, obedient and orthodox doctor of souls and spiritual father, he takes his priestly ministry and responsibility very seriously.

Through his ministry, and in spite of the many instances of being maligned, ridiculed, scoffed and sworn at, he made palpable the maternal nature of the Church; and brought to fruition and fulfillment, the above prayer of consecration for all those people recalled in his book, not to mention in his parishes.

I can only imagine the blessing, gift and grace it must have been for all those people to have encountered Christ, and experienced the Church's motherhood, through Fr Speekman's ministry.

I pray this prayer every morning in the hope that when it is my time to depart this world, this valley of tears, that holy Mother Church would afford my soul a priest like Fr Speekman, to experience her care, tender love and protection, as I journey on my way to the bosom of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria

Forgiveness

Pope Francis, Angelus address 17-09-2023

Today, the Gospel talks to us about *forgiveness* (cf. Mt 18:21-35). Peter asks Jesus: "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?". Seven, in the Bible, is a number that indicates completeness, and so Peter is very generous in the assumptions of his question. But Jesus goes further, and answers him: "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven". ...

Jesus' message is clear: God forgives incalculably, exceeding all measure. This is how he is; He acts out of love, and gratuitously. God is not bought, God is free, he is all gratuitousness. We cannot repay Him but, when we forgive a brother or a sister, we imitate Him.

Forgiving is not, therefore, a good deed that we can choose to do or not do: forgiving is a fundamental condition for those who are Christians. Every one of us, in fact, is "forgiven": let us not forget this, we are forgiven, God gave his life for us and in no way can we recompense his mercy, which he never withdraws from his heart. However, by corresponding to his gratuitousness, that is, by forgiving one another, we can bear witness to him, sowing new life around us. For outside of forgiveness there is no hope; outside of forgiveness there is no peace. Forgiveness is the oxygen that purifies the air of hatred, forgiveness is the antidote to the poisons of resentment, it is the way to defuse anger and heal so many maladies of the heart that contaminate society.

Let us ask ourselves, then: do I believe I have received from God the gift of immense forgiveness? Do I feel the joy of knowing that He is always ready to forgive me when I fall, even when others do not, even when I am not even able to forgive myself? He forgives: do I believe that he forgives? And then: can I in turn forgive those who wrong me? In this respect, I would like to propose a little exercise to you: let us try, now, each one of us, to think of a person who has hurt us, and ask the Lord for the strength to forgive them. And let us forgive them out of love for the Lord: brothers and sisters, this will do us good; it will restore peace to our hearts.

Vatican.va

The Family Rosary

Rosarium Virginis Mariae, Pope John Paul II

41. As a prayer for peace, the Rosary is also, and always has been, a prayer of and for the family. At one time this prayer was particularly dear to Christian families, and it certainly brought them closer together. It is important not to lose this precious inheritance. We need to return to the practice of family prayer and prayer for families, continuing to use the Rosary. ...

The family that prays together stays together. The Holy Rosary, by age-old tradition, has shown itself particularly effective as a prayer which brings the family together. Individual family members, in turning their eyes towards Jesus, also regain the ability to look one another in the eye, to communicate, to show solidarity, to forgive one another and to see their covenant of love renewed in the Spirit of God.

Many of the problems facing contemporary families, especially in economically developed societies, result from their increasing difficulty in communicating. Families seldom manage to come together, and the rare occasions when they do are often taken up with watching television. To return to the recitation of the family Rosary means filling daily life with very different images, images of the mystery of salvation: the image of the Redeemer, the image of his most Blessed Mother.

The family that recites the Rosary together reproduces something of the atmosphere of the household of Nazareth: its members place Jesus at the centre, they share his joys and sorrows, they place their needs and their plans in his hands, they draw from him the hope and the strength to go on.

40 Days for Life, Melbourne

**Wellington Parade, East Melbourne
27 September – 5 November 2023**

Please note that in Victoria, it is a criminal offense to witness for life, to offer help to women or to pray within 150m of an abortion facility. Please do not carry visible pro-life signs or banners into the exclusion zone.

The vigil site is outside Jolimont Station at the marked "exclusion-zone." The blue line denotes that we are 150m from the Fertility Control Clinic, and that it is lawful to gather there to pray and witness to the horror of abortion.

The Fertility Control Clinic is the site of thousands of abortions each year and your prayers and fasting will ensure that, in God's time, this place of death will close.

40daysforlife.com/en/melbourne

Seven Gifts

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1831 The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. ...

March for the Babies, Melbourne

Saturday 7 October, 1pm start, meeting at the corner of Wellington Parade and Spring Street.

Join us for our annual March for Life! Come walk peacefully through Melbourne's beautiful Treasury Gardens with thousands of others who are protesting against the despicable reality of full-term abortion in Victoria.

Legal abortion overturned in our lifetime. That is our task & we must not fail. We aim to inspire AND equip you! Let's show our leaders why we march. Let's stop the killing, for the mothers and their babies. Please be there!

marchforthebabies.com
facebook.com/MarchForTheBabies

Twelve Fruits

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1832 The fruits of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: "charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity."

The Public Rosary

Saint Louis de Montfort, in The Secret of the Rosary

In his bull on the Rosary, Pope Gregory XIII says very clearly that we must believe (on pious faith) that the public prayers and processions of members of the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary were largely responsible for the great victory over the Turkish navy at Lepanto which Almighty God granted to Christians on the first Sunday of October, 1571.

When King Louis the Just, of blessed memory, was besieging La Rochelle, where the revolutionary heretics had their stronghold, he wrote to his mother to beg her to have public prayers offered for a victorious outcome. The Queen-Mother decided to have the Rosary recited publicly in Paris in the Dominican Church of Faubourg Saint Honore and this was done by the Archbishop of Paris. It was begun on May 20th, 1628.

Both the Queen-Mother and the reigning Queen attended the recitation of the Rosary together with the Duke of Orleans, Cardinal de La Rochefoucault and Cardinal de Berulle, as well as other prelates. The court turned out in full force as well as a large proportion of the general populace. The Archbishop used to read the meditations on the mysteries aloud and then begin the Our Fathers and Hail Marys of each decade while the congregation made up of religious and lay folk answered him. At the end of the Rosary a statue of the Blessed Mother was solemnly carried in procession while the Litany of Our Lady was sung.

This devotion was kept up with admirable fervour every Saturday and resulted in a manifest blessing from Heaven: for on All Saints' Day of the same year the king defeated the English at the island of Re and made his triumphant entry into La Rochelle. This goes to show the great power of public prayer.

IHS

By Philip Kosloski, Aleteia, 29-08-23

It is extremely common to walk into a Catholic church and see the letters IHS etched on a crucifix or prominently featured in a stained-glass window. What do they mean?

Contrary to popular belief, the monogram does not stand for "I have suffered," "Jesus Hominum Salvator" or even "In Hoc Signo." IHS is more appropriately called a "Christogram," and is an ancient way of writing the word "Jesus Christ."

Dating all the way back to the third century, Christians shortened the name of Jesus by only writing the first three letters of his name in Greek, ΙΗΣ (from his full name ΙΗΣΟΥΣ). The Greek letter Σ (sigma), is written in the Latin alphabet as an "S," resulting in the monogram being commonly represented as IHS.

In the early centuries of the Church it was a secret symbol, often etched on tombs of Christians. Then in the 15th century, St Bernadine of Siena went on a preaching campaign to promote reverence to the Holy Name of Jesus and encouraged Christians to put IHS on the doorways of their homes. A century later in 1541 St Ignatius adopted the monogram to represent his newly founded order, the Society of Jesus. The symbol now permeates Christian art all over the world.

Aleteia.org

Enemies

St Augustine

That your enemies have been created is God's doing; that they hate you and wish to ruin you is their own doing. What should you say about them in your mind? "Lord be merciful to them, forgive them their sins, put the fear of God in them, change them!" You are loving in them not what they are, but what you would have them to become.

"There are many kinds of alms, the giving of which helps us to obtain pardon for our sins; but none is greater than that by which we forgive from our heart a sin that someone has committed against us."

St Augustine

The Catholic Church in Mongolia

By Lisa Zengarini, Vatican News, 29-08-2023

When the first three missionaries of the Scheut community arrived in the Mongolian capital in 1992, not even a single Catholic resided in Mongolia, and the work for the "*implantatio Ecclesiae*" ("establishment of the Church") had to start from nothing, amidst language and cultural difficulties.

Their apostolic work, and that of the other religious congregations that followed, was supported financially by the Korean Church, and has borne fruit, as indicated by the slow but constant increase of converts to Catholicism in the majority Buddhist country, and by the interest shown by a growing number of young Catholic Mongolians for the priesthood and consecrated life.

In 1995, there were only 14 Mongolian Catholics. The most recent data from 2023 puts the current number of Catholics at around 1,500 distributed in eight parishes and a chapel, out of an overall population of some 3,5 million inhabitants.

They are served by one bishop, 25 priests, including two Mongolians, six seminarians, 30 women religious, five non-priestly religious men, 35 catechists, all belonging to some 30 different nationalities. ...

In 2020, there was a Catholic technical institute, two elementary schools and two nursery schools, a medical clinic that offers treatment and medicines to the destitute, a centre for the disabled and two institutes hosting abandoned and poor elderly people.

Each parish has also started charitable projects that add to those of Caritas Mongolia, by opening soup kitchens and washing facilities, and running vocational courses for women.

Vaticannews.va

Volunteers

**Pope Francis, to charity workers,
Mongolia 04-09-2023**

The contribution of volunteers is indispensable. A purely generous and selfless service that people freely choose to offer to those in need, not out of concern for financial remuneration or personal benefit, but out of pure love of their neighbour. This is the "style" of service that Jesus taught us when he told his disciples: "Freely you have received, freely give".

Serving others in this way may seem like a lost cause, but once they put themselves on the line, those who sacrifice their time and effort discover that whatever they give without expecting anything in return is never lost, but becomes instead a great treasure.

Indeed, generosity unburdens the soul, heals the wounds of the heart, brings us closer to God, becomes a source of joy, and keeps us young inside.

Vatican.va

Littleness

**Pope Francis, to bishops, priests, missionaries,
consecrated persons and pastoral workers,
Mongolia 02-09-2023**

As you lift your eyes to Mary, then, may you find refreshment, knowing that being little is not a problem, but a resource.

God loves littleness, and through it he loves to accomplish great things, as Mary herself bears witness. Brothers and sisters, do not be concerned about small numbers, limited success, or apparent irrelevance. That is not how God works.

Let us keep our gaze fixed on Mary, who in her littleness is greater than the heavens, for within her she bore the One whom the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain. Brothers and sisters, let us entrust ourselves to her, asking for a renewed zeal and an ardent love that tirelessly and joyfully bears witness to the Gospel. Onwards! Be courageous, do not tire of moving forward.

Vatican.va

Pain *without* Christ is suffering.

Pain *with* Christ is sacrifice.

Venerable Fulton Sheen

The Thirst for Happiness

Pope Francis, Homily, 03-09-2023 Mongolia

Deep within us, we have an insatiable thirst for happiness; we seek meaning and direction in our lives, a reason for all that we do each day. More than anything, we thirst for love, for only love can truly satisfy us, bring us fulfilment; only love can make us happy, inspire inner assurance and allow us to savour the beauty of life.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Christian faith is the answer to this thirst; it takes it seriously, without dismissing it or trying to replace it with tranquilizers or surrogates. For in this thirst lies the great mystery of our humanity: it opens our hearts to the living God, the God of love, who comes to meet us and to make us his children, brothers and sisters to one another. ...

This is the heart of the Christian faith: God, who is Love, has drawn near to you, to me, to everyone, in his Son Jesus, and wants to share in your life, your work, your dreams and your thirst for happiness.

It is true that, at times, we feel like a "dry and weary land where there is no water", yet it is equally true that God cares for us and offers us clear, refreshing water, the living water of the Spirit, springing up within us to renew us and free us from the risk of drought. Jesus gives us that water. ...

If we think that success, power, or material things suffice to satisfy the thirst in our lives, then we are thinking as the world does. That kind of worldliness leads nowhere; indeed, it leaves us thirstier than before. Jesus instead shows us the way: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it" (Mt 16:24-25).

This, dear brothers and sisters, is surely the best way: to embrace the cross of Christ. At the heart of Christianity is an amazing and extraordinary message. If you lose your life, if you make it a generous offering in service, if you risk it by choosing to love, if you make it a free gift for others, then it will return to you in abundance, and you will be overwhelmed by endless joy, peace of heart, and inner strength and support; and we need inner peace.

... You need not be famous, rich or powerful to be happy. No! Only love satisfies our hearts' thirst, only love heals our wounds, only love brings us true joy. This is the way that Jesus taught us; this is the path that he opened up before us.

May we too, dear brothers and sisters, heed what the Lord said to Peter in response: "Get behind me" (Mt 16:23). In other words, be my disciple, walk in my footsteps and stop thinking as the world does. If we do this, we will be able, with the grace of Christ and the Holy Spirit, to journey along the path of love, even when love calls for denying ourselves, combatting our personal and worldly forms of selfishness, and taking the risk of living a life of genuine fraternity. For while it is true that all these things entail effort and sacrifice, and sometimes taking up the cross, it is even more true that, when we lose our lives for the sake of the Gospel, the Lord gives them back to us abundantly, in the fullness of love and joy for all eternity.

Vatican.va

Friends

St Augustine

Particularly when I am worn out by the upsets of the world, I cast myself without reservation on the love of those who are especially close to me. I know that I can safely entrust my thoughts and considerations to those who are aflame with Christian love and have become faithful friends to me. For I am entrusting them not to another human, but to God, in whom they dwell and by whom they are what they are.

Angel of God,
my guardian dear,
to whom God's love
commits me here,
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard,
to rule and guide. Amen.

The Titanic Priest

From an article by Neil Xavier O'Donoghue, in Messenger of St Anthony, June 2023

Fr. Thomas Byles was ordained a Catholic priest in 1905; in 2015 a cause for beatification was introduced by Brentwood Diocese in England

Fr. Thomas Byles was born in 1870 to a Congregationalist Minister and his wife in Leeds, England. He was raised as a Protestant, but while studying in Oxford as a young man he was to enter the Catholic Church. Here he was to discern a vocation to the priesthood. After studying in Rome he was ordained as a priest, and in 1905 assigned to St. Helen's parish in Chipping Ongar, Essex, England, a parish he would serve until his death.

Fr. Thomas was to be an exemplary priest. In 1912 his younger brother William, who had also converted to Catholicism, invited him to perform his marriage ceremony in New York. This was the reason for his presence on the Titanic ocean liner on its fateful maiden voyage.

Fr. Thomas celebrated Mass for the second and another for the third class passengers on the morning of 14 April, 1912, the Sunday in the Octave of Easter (today known by many as Divine Mercy Sunday). His sermon that morning was prophetic, he preached on the dangers of spiritual shipwreck in the face of temptation and the need for a spiritual lifeboat in the form of prayer and the Sacraments.

Later that day Fr. Thomas was walking on the upper deck, praying his breviary, when the ship struck an iceberg. Although he was offered a place on a lifeboat on more than one occasion, he discerned that his place was to stay behind and minister to the crowds awaiting their death. Initially he went down to the poorest passengers in steerage and calmly led them around the locked doors to the deck where some managed to board the lifeboats. Then he accompanied the remaining panicking passengers in the rosary and other prayers, heard confessions and generally comforted the afflicted. He perished with the other 1,500 souls who drowned that night. Agnes McCoy, a survivor of the disaster told one of the New York newspapers, how as "the Titanic went to the bottom, Father Thomas B. Byles stood on the deck with Catholics, Protestants and Jews kneeling around him."

messengersaintanthony.com

Devotion to the Holy Angels

Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy,

Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 2001

216. ... Popular piety encompasses many forms of devotion to the Guardian Angels. St. Basil Great (+378) taught that "each and every member of the faithful has a Guardian Angel to protect, guard and guide them through life". This ancient teaching was consolidated by biblical and patristic sources and lies behind many forms of piety.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux (+1153) was a great master and a notable promoter of devotion to the Guardian Angels. For him, they were a proof "that heaven denies us nothing that assists us", and hence, "these celestial spirits have been placed at our sides to protect us, instruct us and to guide us".

Devotion to the Holy Angels gives rise to a certain form of the Christian life which is characterized by:

- devout gratitude to God for having placed these heavenly spirits of great sanctity and dignity at the service of man;
- an attitude of devotion deriving from the knowledge of living constantly in the presence of the Holy Angels of God;- serenity and confidence in facing difficult situations, since the Lord guides and protects the faithful in the way of justice through the ministry of His Holy Angels. Among the prayers to the Guardian Angels the *Angele Dei* is especially popular, and is often recited by families at morning and evening prayers, or at the recitation of the *Angelus*.

Vatican.va

What If This Was Common?

Fr Mike Schmitz, in *Catechism in a Year, Day 177* – on the effects of Confirmation

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

1303 From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.

1305 ... "the confirmed person receives the power to profess faith in Christ publicly and as it were officially" (St Thomas Aquinas)

The fifth effect of Confirmation [in para 1303], says this, "It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ." Remember back in Acts Chapter 2, what did Jesus say? He said, "You'll receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses." Here's what confirmation does. ... How incredible is that, to spread and defend the faith by word and action? That's the gift that was given to you. That's the gift that was poured out on you in the sacrament of Confirmation. A special strength to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ.

Secondly, to confess the name of Christ boldly. Imagine. Imagine what it would be if you and I actually did this. Like if the average Catholic who was confirmed, that's how we lived – we actually were able to confess the name of Jesus Christ boldly.

And the third part is, and never to be ashamed of the Cross. ...

What if that was common? I mean, what if that's actually what we said yes to? ...

Paragraph 1305 says ... "the confirmed person receives the power to profess faith in Christ publicly and as it were officially" ... Do you realise that because you been confirmed, you actually are an official representative of the Church? ... You have received the power to profess Christ publicly.

So here's the question: do I? Do I profess faith in Christ publicly, or is my faith something that's private, I mean, those close to me, they know that God's important to me. ... But the Holy Spirit was not poured out on to us and into our hearts so that we could practise our faith quietly in our own homes. ... You were given the sacrament of Confirmation so that you could be someone who spreads and defends the faith. ...

You are, for all intents and purposes, an official representative of the Catholic Church. And so there are so many consequences of this. ... We have to take this deeply into our hearts. And then we have to say, ok, God, how do you want me to do this? Because maybe it's standing on a on a street corner, right? ... But maybe it just means in your everyday life, to say, well, my job is to spread and defend the faith by what I say and what I do as a true witness of Jesus. What Jesus has done is, he's given me the strength to confess the name of Christ boldly. What Jesus has done, he's given me the grace to never be ashamed of the Cross. How does he want me to exercise those gifts? How does he want me to live that out now in my life? It is not someone else's job. It is my job. ...

If I don't use this gift, woe is me. ... And woe is all of us, if we do not proclaim the Gospel. Jesus didn't die for us so that we could simply keep it to ourselves. The love of God has not been poured out into our hearts so that we could not tell anybody, but just keep our faith private. The love of God has been poured out into our hearts so we can cry out, "Abba! Father!", and tell the world about the goodness of God.

AscensionPress.com [Transcribed from the podcast - Ed.]

You're Invited!

The Ordinariate Parish of the Most Holy Family, in Cowwarr, Victoria, is celebrating a milestone in October: the 10th anniversary of its establishment as a parish, coinciding with the 10th anniversary of parish priest Fr Ken Clark's ordination as a Catholic priest (formerly Anglican). There will be a Mass of thanksgiving on **Sunday 22nd of October in Cowwarr at 9.30am**, followed by a brunch. Everyone is welcome – to visit, to celebrate, to join, or simply to come to Sunday Mass in a beautiful old church in a tiny little country town!

Ed.

The following is from the Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross website:

The Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross was erected by Pope Benedict XVI with a Decree of Erection, signed by William Cardinal Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, on 15 June 2012. This was the third Personal Ordinariate to be erected for former Anglicans (after the United Kingdom and the United States of America/Canada).

Although our roots connect us to the Anglican heritage and ethos, it is not correct to refer to us as an "Anglican Ordinariate." As is true for all three Ordinariates erected under *Anglicanorum coetibus*, the primary mission is that of evangelisation. We do not exist just for Anglicans who wish to become Catholic. With the expansion of the Complementary Norms by Pope Francis, the mission is so broad that it encompasses any and all who will be coming into full communion with the Catholic Church. In addition, as "any Catholic may worship in any Catholic parish," our doors are open to any and all within the Catholic Church.

As is so aptly described by our sister Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter (US and Canada), "With respect and gratitude for the Anglican heritage that nourished us, we seek to build bridges with all our brothers and sisters who are drawn to the Church, so that we might build up the one Body of Christ.

"Our mission is particularly experienced in our celebration of liturgy, which features Anglican traditions of worship while conforming to Catholic doctrinal, sacramental and liturgical standards. Through Divine Worship: The Missal – the liturgy that unites the Ordinariates throughout the English-speaking world – we share our distinctive commitment to praising God in the eloquence of the Anglican liturgical patrimony and Prayer Book English.

"In addition, the founding documents of the Personal Ordinariate make clear that it is intended to be an instrument of Catholic unity: an opportunity to model what the future reconciliation of separated Christian communities could be. We wish to fulfill the Holy Father's vision for Christian unity, in which diverse expressions of one faith are joined together in the Church."

www.ordinariate.org.au

The Reformation Starts Here

To become Holy is, after all, the core business of the Church, and Gippsland community's core business is to become holy, and to share Christ with others. We are to be faithful to the Call of Christ, not oneself, or one's own ego, but to Christ, His Church (a church that is Holy – Christ-centred, not self-referential, nor centred on power, prestige, or glory, nor on doing what is popular and nice), His Sacraments, and His Magisterium (the teachings of the Church). We are called to be Holy as Christ Himself is Holy. Until people change themselves and look to grow in holiness, to become Christ, to be Christ, then we will always fail.

If we want the Ordinariate to grow and prosper in Christ then we have to *be* the Good News of Christ. We have to become saints. Nothing else matters. The reformation of the Church starts here, now, with us. Pray each day that you/I become Holy. Pester Christ to make us Holy. Invite the Holy Spirit into our lives so that God becomes the 'esse' of our being, not on the periphery where we give a nod to Him. If you are not becoming Holy, if becoming like Christ is not your aim, if self, sin, ego, worldly pursuits get in the way, then let them go. It is only Jesus that matters, He who is Love Incarnate.

Fr Ken Clark, in the Ordinariate Observer, Teaser Edition

ordinariate.org.au/news

The Way We Think

Homily by Fr John Speekman, for 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A (Matt 16:21-27)

Last week Jesus posed a question which Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, answered correctly. This week, when Jesus makes clear to his disciples God's will for him, Peter stupidly takes that most dangerous and not-to-be-recommended initiative – he proposes *an alternative* to God's will.

Why would Peter do such a silly thing? What was his motive? How could he bring himself to think he could correct the Lord and improve on God's plan? What prompted him?

Jesus himself gives the answer when he rebukes Peter; he tells him it's: *the way you think*.

The way we think determines absolutely everything we do and don't do; what we like and what we dislike; what we run away from and what we are prepared to die for. And so, without fear of contradiction, I can state categorically that *the way we think* is just about the most important thing in life to *get right*.

But let's go back to Peter. What precisely was *wrong* with his way of thinking? He had heard Jesus was to die a horrible death at the hands of his enemies and he, like most caring, loving, charitable people wanted to spare his friend this calamity.

Heaven preserve you, Lord ... this must not happen to you, Peter had said – and the stress, the emphasis, would have been heavily on the word – *you*. He had lost sight of the divine he had only just now affirmed and, for one fatal moment, his horizon was narrowed to human sentiment – a most common mistake.

Why, for example, do so many mothers counsel their pregnant teenage daughters to have an abortion? Is it not because they see in their mind's eye the difficulties their daughters will undergo as single parents; the career opportunities they will have to forego; the disadvantage they will suffer in finding a suitable partner in life? Mothers want good things for their children and when faced with these imagined bleak prospects will often lose sight of the larger picture and see only the immediate needs of their child – will see only the *you*. *'Heaven preserve you, daughter ... this must not happen to you!'*

Of course, we could multiply examples. Parents of homosexually active children; children of elderly parents who are suffering; Catholics who see the misbehaviour of their bishops and priests; and countless other human situations. All of the solutions we apply to them depend on our 'way of thinking' and if it is a human way of thinking we will decide in favour of the immediate human circumstances. The here-and-now *you* becomes more important than the invisible *God*.

- 'How could I tell my lesbian daughter that she cannot try to find happiness with her partner?'
- 'How can I allow my mother to go on suffering when I can so easily stop it.'
- 'How can I be part of an institution that has sinners in its leadership?'

The human way of thinking leaves God out every time. It sees only with the human eye and decides only according to human logic.

My mother is suffering.

Suffering is not good.

The loving thing to do is to end the suffering.

As Jesus says: *the way you think is not God's way but man's.*

When we sideline the divine we are left with nothing but the impoverishment of the merely human. This is all too demonstrably a terrible catastrophe for humankind. Among other things, it is the reason for the global economic collapse; for the violence in the world's trouble spots; for the exploitation of women and children; for pollution of the environment; and for the breakdown of marriage.

Peter would have been stung by his Master's rebuke. It was probably not the first nor would it be the last. But eventually he got on the Lord's wavelength. He exchanged his human way of thinking for the divine way and proved he had grasped the lesson by his death on his own cross.

Let us follow in his footsteps.

Homiliesfromaustralia.blogspot.com, 2017

Eucharistic Adoration in Gippsland, Victoria

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 10am - 11am Mass
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

Return to the Source

**Pope Francis, to bishops, priests, missionaries,
consecrated persons and pastoral workers,
Mongolia 02-09-2023**

I urge you to *taste and see the Lord*, to keep returning to that original “gaze” from which everything began. Otherwise, our strength will fail and our pastoral work will risk becoming an empty delivery of services, a roster of duties that end up inducing only weariness and frustration.

Yet when we remain in contact with the face of Christ, seeking him in the Scriptures and contemplating him in *silent adoration* before the tabernacle, we come to see him in the faces of those we serve and experience an interior joy that, even amid hardship, brings peace to our hearts.

This is what we need, today and always: not people who run around, busy and distracted, carrying out projects but also at times appearing resentful about a life that is surely not easy. Instead, a Christian is one who is capable of adoration, worshipping in silence. And then, out of this adoration springs activity. ...

We need to return to the source, to the face of Jesus and to “taste” his presence, for he is our treasure, the pearl of great price for which it is worth spending everything.

Vatican.va

Contact *Into the Deep*

www.stoneswillshout.com

stoneswillshout@bigpond.com

12 Vincent Road, Morwell, Vic, 3840, Australia

 **find us on**  **facebook**

ITD is released on or around the first day of each month by email and on the blog; printed copies about a week later. Deadline for contributions is one week before the end of the month (but preferably by the 15th of the month).

Editor: Janet Kingman

Subscription is free. We rely on donations.

Cheques to be made out to Janet Kingman.

ITD's bank details for **Direct Deposits:**

Account name: Janet Kingman

BSB: 013-745 (ANZ)

Account number: 2901-63632

Donate via Ritchies Supermarkets Community Benefit program by nominating Into the Deep, CB number 81799.

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