

# ***Into the Deep***

Issue 256

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

May 2025

## **Rest in Peace, Papa**

And so we are once again without a Holy Father. An orphaned Church for a little while, lost and lonely. Awaiting our new Father. Like a quiet and solemn Holy Saturday.

Pope Francis made it out of his long stint in hospital, only to die at his home on Easter Monday, 21 April 2025, from a stroke. May he rest in peace.

Just like our Holy Saturdays have the lingering pain of the agony of Good Friday as well as the anticipation of the joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday, so does it feel in this in-between time. Saddened by the death of one pope, and eagerly awaiting the unfolding process of electing the new pope.

The conclave begins May 7<sup>th</sup>. How blessed we are in our Catholic Church that we are never fatherless for long. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit for the Cardinal electors and for our new pope.

Ed.

## **Easter Action**

**Pope Francis, Easter Sunday Homily, 20-04-2025**

Easter spurs us to action, to run like Mary Magdalene and the disciples; it invites us to have eyes that can "see beyond," to perceive Jesus, the one who lives, as the God who reveals himself and makes himself present even today, who speaks to us, goes before us, surprises us. Like Mary Magdalene, every day we can experience losing the Lord, but every day we can also run to look for him again, with the certainty that he will allow himself to be found and will fill us with the light of his resurrection.

Brothers and sisters, this is the greatest hope of our life: we can live this poor, fragile and wounded existence clinging to Christ, because he has conquered death, he conquers our darkness and he will conquer the shadows of the world, to make us live with him in joy, forever. This is the goal towards which we press on, as the Apostle Paul says, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. Like Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, we hasten to meet Christ.

Vatican.va

## **The Church is Alive**

**Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at the beginning of his Papacy, 24-04-2005**

Yes, the Church is alive – this is the wonderful experience of these days.

During those sad days of the Pope's illness and death, it became wonderfully evident to us that the Church is alive. And the Church is young. She holds within herself the future of the world and therefore shows each of us the way towards the future.

The Church is alive and we are seeing it: we are experiencing the joy that the Risen Lord promised his followers. The Church is alive – she is alive because Christ is alive, because he is truly risen.

In the suffering that we saw on the Holy Father's face in those days of Easter, we contemplated the mystery of Christ's Passion and we touched his wounds. But throughout these days we have also been able, in a profound sense, to touch the Risen One. We have been able to experience the joy that he promised, after a brief period of darkness, as the fruit of his resurrection.

Vatican.va

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# Enjoy the Banquet of Faith!

**Easter Homily attributed to St John Chrysostom**

Let all pious men and all lovers of God rejoice in the splendour of this feast; let the wise servants blissfully enter into the joy of their Lord; let those who have borne the burden of Lent now receive their pay, and those who have toiled since the first hour, let them now receive their due reward; let any who came after the third hour be grateful to join in the feast, and those who may have come after the sixth, let them not be afraid of being too late; for the Lord is gracious and He receives the last even as the first.

He gives rest to him who comes on the eleventh hour as well as to him who has toiled since the first: yes, He has pity on the last and He serves the first; He rewards the one and praises the effort.

Come you all: enter into the joy of your Lord. You the first and you the last, receive alike your reward; you rich and you poor, dance together; you sober and you weaklings, celebrate the day; you who have kept the fast and you who have not, rejoice today.

The table is richly loaded: enjoy its royal banquet. The calf is a fatted one: let no one go away hungry. All of you enjoy the banquet of faith; all of you receive the riches of his goodness.

Let no one grieve over his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed; let no one weep over his sins, for pardon has shone from the grave; let no one fear death, for the death of our Saviour has set us free.

Ewtn.com

## Be Strong in Faith

**From the Jerusalem Catecheses**

*On the night he was betrayed our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said: "Take, eat: this is my body." He took the cup, gave thanks and said: "Take, drink: this is my blood."*

Since Christ himself has declared the bread to be his body, who can have any further doubt? Since he himself has said quite categorically, *This is my blood*, who would dare to question it and say that it is not his blood?

Therefore, it is with complete assurance that we receive the bread and wine as the body and blood of Christ. His body is given to us under the symbol of bread, and his blood is given to us under the symbol of wine, in order to make us by receiving them one body and blood with him. Having his body and blood in our members, we become bearers of Christ and sharers, as Saint Peter says, in the divine nature. ...

Do not, then, regard the eucharistic elements as ordinary bread and wine: they are in fact the body and blood of the Lord, as he himself has declared. Whatever your senses may tell you, be strong in faith. ...

Office of Readings, Second Reading, Easter Saturday

## Wrong Month

Something strange is going on! Last month I apologised for getting the numbering of my issues wrong – I had both the Jan/Feb and March issues numbered as 253. I fixed that last month with the correct number 255 for the April issue. But I didn't change the name of the month in the 'footer', so the bottom of each page of the April issue says March! Fancy getting 2 things wrong in 2 months! Sorry about that. I must be losing my touch.

Ed.

## The End of ITD

As mentioned previously, please remember no more donations, as I will be winding up ITD at our next birthday in October, which will coincide with when we use up our current funds.

If ITD has meant anything to you at all over the years, please put pen to paper (or finger to keyboard) and send your thoughts to me. I want to publish as many letters as possible in our final October issue. Hopefully I'll be inundated!

Ed.

# Announcement of the Pope's Death

By Devin Watkins, Vatican News, 21-04-2025

At 9.45am Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church, announced the death of Pope Francis from the Casa Santa Marta with these words: "Dearest brothers and sisters, with deep sorrow I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis. At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father. His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of His Church. He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage, and universal love, especially in favour of the poorest and most marginalized. With immense gratitude for his example as a true disciple of the Lord Jesus, we commend the soul of Pope Francis to the infinite merciful love of the One and Triune God."

VaticanNews.va

"We must empty purgatory with our prayers."

St Pio of Pietrelcina

# Thank You for Your Prayers

Pope Francis, Palm Sunday 13-04-2025

"Sisters and brothers, I thank you very much for your prayers. At this time of physical weakness, they help me to feel God's closeness, compassion and tenderness even more. I, too, am praying for you, and I ask you to entrust all those who suffer to the Lord together with me."

VaticanNews.va

## Queen of Heaven

- V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
- R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
- V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.
- R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.
- V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
- R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

**Let us pray.** O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Pope Francis on Being Sick

Pope Francis, Homily, Jubilee of the sick and health care workers, 06-04-2025

I have much in common with you at this time of my life, dear brothers and sisters who are sick: the experience of illness, of weakness, of having to depend on others in so many things, and of needing their support. This is not always easy, but it is a school in which we learn each day to love and to let ourselves be loved, without being demanding or pushing back, without regrets and without despair, but rather with gratitude to God and to our brothers and sisters for the kindness we receive, looking towards the future with acceptance and trust. The hospital room and the sickbed can also be places where we hear the voice of the Lord speak to us: "Behold, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Is 43:19). In this way, we renew and strengthen our faith.

Benedict XVI – who gave us a beautiful testimony of serenity in the time of his illness – wrote that, "the true measure of humanity is essentially determined in relationship to suffering" and that "a society unable to accept its suffering members... is a cruel and inhuman society" (*Spe Salvi*, 38). It is true: facing suffering together makes us more human, and the ability to share the pain of others is an important step forward in any journey of holiness.

Dear friends, let us not exclude from our lives those who are frail, as at times, sadly, a certain mentality does today. Let us not banish suffering from our surroundings. On the contrary, let us turn it into an opportunity to grow together and to cultivate hope, thanks to the love that God first poured into our hearts (cf. Rom 5:5), the love that, above all things, remains forever (cf. 1 Cor 13:8-10, 13).

Vatican.va

# Nine Days of Mourning

By Vatican News, 23-04-2025

Following an ancient tradition, the Catholic Church will observe nine consecutive days of mourning [Novemdiales], marked by Masses held in suffrage for the late Pope Francis.

While these Eucharistic celebrations are open to everyone, each day a different group is scheduled to participate – based on their connection with the Holy Father. This diversity of groups reflects both “the scope of the Supreme Pastor’s ministry and the universality of the Church of Rome” (cf. *Ordo Exsequiarum Romani Pontificis*, nos. 124–125). The Cardinals present in Rome set the schedule for which of them will celebrate each Mass during their second General Congregation, held on Wednesday evening.

The first day of the Novemdiales will be marked by Pope Francis’ funeral Mass in St. Peter’s Square.

- Second Day: the group will be the employees and faithful of Vatican City.
- Third Day: the group will be the Church of Rome.
- Fourth Day: The Chapters of the Papal Basilicas will be the group.
- Fifth Day: with the group being the Papal Chapel.
- Sixth Day: the group being the Roman Curia.
- Seventh Day: the group being the Eastern Churches.
- Eighth Day: with members of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.
- Ninth Day: Sunday, May 4, with the Papal Chapel group.

VaticanNews.va

## Missionaries of Hope

**Pope Francis, Message for World Mission Day 19 October 2025**

3. Faced with the urgency of the mission of hope today, Christ’s disciples are called first to discover how to become “artisans” of hope and restorers of an often distracted and unhappy humanity.

To this end, we need to be renewed in the Easter spirituality experienced at every Eucharistic celebration and especially during the Easter Triduum, the centre and culmination of the liturgical year.

We have been baptized into the redemptive death and resurrection of Christ, into the Passover of the Lord that marks the eternal springtime of history. Consequently, we are a “springtime people”, brimming with hope to be shared with all, since in Christ we believe and know that death and hate are not the final word pronounced on human existence.

From the paschal mysteries, made present in liturgical celebrations and in the sacraments, we constantly draw upon the power of the Holy Spirit in order to work with zeal, determination and patience in the vast field of global evangelization. “Christ, risen and glorified, is the wellspring of our hope, and he will not deprive us of the help we need to carry out the mission which he has entrusted to us” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 275). In him, we live and bear witness to that sacred hope which is a gift from God and a task for Christians.

Missionaries of hope are men and women of prayer, for “the person who hopes is a person who prays”, in the words of Venerable Cardinal François-Xavier Van Thuan, who was himself sustained in hope throughout his lengthy imprisonment thanks to the strength he received from faithful prayer and the Eucharist. Let us not forget that prayer is the primary missionary activity and at the same time the first strength of hope.

So let us renew the mission of hope, starting from prayer, especially prayer based on the word of God and particularly the Psalms, that great symphony of prayer whose composer is the Holy Spirit. The Psalms train us to hope amid adversity, to discern the signs of hope around us, and to have the constant “missionary” desire that God be praised by all peoples (cf. Ps 41:12; 67:4).

By praying, we keep alive the spark of hope lit by God within us, so that it can become a great fire, which enlightens and warms everyone around us, also by those concrete actions and gestures that prayer itself inspires.

Vatican.va

# Pope Francis' Testament

Pope Francis' testament, dated 29 June 2022

*In the name of the Most Holy Trinity. Amen.*

As I sense the approaching twilight of my earthly life, and with firm hope in eternal life, I wish to set out my final wishes solely regarding the place of my burial.

Throughout my life, and during my ministry as a priest and bishop, I have always entrusted myself to the Mother of Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary. For this reason, I ask that my mortal remains rest – awaiting the day of the Resurrection – in the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major.

I wish my final earthly journey to end precisely in this ancient Marian sanctuary, where I would always stop to pray at the beginning and end of every Apostolic Journey, confidently entrusting my intentions to the Immaculate Mother, and giving thanks for her gentle and maternal care.

I ask that my tomb be prepared in the burial niche in the side aisle between the Pauline Chapel (Chapel of the Salus Populi Romani) and the Sforza Chapel of the Basilica, as shown in the attached plan. The tomb should be in the ground; simple, without particular ornamentation, bearing only the inscription: Franciscus. The cost of preparing the burial will be covered by a sum provided by a benefactor, which I have arranged to be transferred to the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major. ...

May the Lord grant a fitting reward to all those who have loved me and who continue to pray for me. The suffering that has marked the final part of my life, I offer to the Lord, for peace in the world and for fraternity among peoples.

VaticanNews.va 21-04-2025

## Always Starting Afresh From Christ

By reflecting on the readings of the Passion on Palm Sunday and our Lord's Passion on Good Friday, as well as watching "The Chosen" TV series [free on The Chosen app], I have learned many things about the apostles and Jesus' disciples – especially Judas' betrayal and St Peter's denial. More importantly I have, and am learning spiritually, many things about myself as a Catholic, and of course, the rest of humanity's fallen human nature.

It's all too easy when listening to these readings, to identify with the 'good' and 'virtuous' characteristics of the Apostles and disciples, but if the truth be known, what betrayed and denied Jesus in his darkest hours respectively, was their weaknesses and their human passions.

This is what I like about The Chosen, the depiction of the fallen human nature of all of the Apostles and disciples is done so vividly and well, even though they know God's ways are not their ways. In so many scenes in The Chosen, Jesus' apostles put their own desires, plans and wills before him and his Kingdom, his evangelising mission. This was demonstrated so clearly in Jesus' healing miracles. Even though they have been called, chosen and converted, their appetites, desires, plans and thinking are still very much aligned with the prevailing culture and the world. I could see myself in all twelve of them, as well as Mary Magdalen and the other disciples.

Every day my human weaknesses and passions are at war with the life of the paschal Christ I received in Baptism in my soul, and more often than not they win out. When this happens our fallen human nature betrays and denies not only the life of Christ by which I live and move and have my being, but Christ and his body, the Church itself.

But through Jesus Christ's Church, of which his Paschal mystery is the centre, source and summit, every minute, hour, day, week, month and year, I have the grace and opportunity to start afresh from Christ, so that I may once again deepen my understanding of the Paschal Mystery, and make it a reality and the rhythm, of the daily conduct in my life.

**Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria**

# Responding to God's Call

**Pope Francis, Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 11 May 2025**

A vocation is a precious gift that God sows in our heart, a call to leave ourselves behind and embark on a journey of love and service. Every vocation in the Church, whether lay, ordained or consecrated, is a sign of the hope that God has for this world and for each of his children. ...

Whenever we listen to Jesus' words, our hearts burn within us and we feel the desire to consecrate our lives to God. Naturally, we want to find the way of life that will best allow us to return the love with which he loved us first. ...

Vocation and hope go together in God's plan for the happiness of each man and woman, all of whom are called by name to give their lives for others. Many young people seek to know the path God is calling them to take. Some find, often to their surprise, that they are called to the priesthood or to the consecrated life. Others discover the beauty of the call to marriage and family life, to the pursuit of the common good and to a life of witness to the faith among their friends and acquaintances.

Every vocation is inspired by hope, marked by confident trust in God's providence. For Christians, hope is more than mere human optimism: it is a certainty based on our faith in God, who is at work in each of our lives. Vocations mature through the daily effort to be faithful to the Gospel, and through prayer, discernment and service.

Dear young friends, hope in God does not disappoint, because at every step of the way he accompanies those who entrust their lives to him. Our world needs young people who are pilgrims of hope, who courageously devote their lives to Christ and rejoice in being his disciples and missionaries. ...

The discovery of our vocation comes about as the result of a journey of discernment. That journey is never solitary, but develops within a Christian community and as a part of that community.

Dear friends, the world pushes you to make hasty decisions and bombards you with a constant blare that prevents you from experiencing a silence that is open to God who speaks to the heart. Have the courage to pause, to listen to what your heart tells you, and to ask God about his dreams for you. The silence of prayer is indispensable if we are to learn how to hear God's call amid the specific circumstances of our lives and to respond consciously and freely. ...

The Church needs pastors, religious, missionaries and spouses capable of saying "yes" to the Lord with trust and hope. A vocation is never a treasure stored away in the heart; rather, it grows and is strengthened within a community that believes, loves and hopes. No one can respond to God's call alone, for all of us need the prayers and support of our brothers and sisters.

Dearly beloved, the Church is alive and fruitful when she generates new vocations. Our world looks, often unknowingly, for witnesses of hope who proclaim with their lives that following Christ is a source of true joy. Let us never tire, then, of asking the Lord for new labourers for his harvest, certain that with great love he continues to call them. Dear young people, I entrust your efforts to follow the Lord to the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church and Mother of vocations. Keep walking as pilgrims of hope on the path of the Gospel! I accompany you with my blessing and I ask you, please, to pray for me.

Rome, Gemelli Hospital, 19 March 2025.

Vatican.va

**"The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus."**

**St John Vianney**

**"Jesus Christ, after having given us everything he could give us, still wants to make us heirs of what he holds most precious, that is, of his Blessed Mother."**

**St John Vianney**

# Our Feeble Hand in His Mighty Hand

**Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi address, Easter Sunday 20-04-2025**

Christ is risen, alleluia! ... From the empty tomb in Jerusalem, we hear unexpected good news: Jesus, who was crucified, "is not here, he has risen" (Lk 24:5). Jesus is not in the tomb, he is alive!

Love has triumphed over hatred, light over darkness and truth over falsehood. Forgiveness has triumphed over revenge. Evil has not disappeared from history; it will remain until the end, but it no longer has the upper hand; it no longer has power over those who accept the grace of this day.

Sisters and brothers, especially those of you experiencing pain and sorrow, your silent cry has been heard and your tears have been counted; not one of them has been lost! In the passion and death of Jesus, God has taken upon himself all the evil in this world and in his infinite mercy has defeated it. He has uprooted the diabolical pride that poisons the human heart and wreaks violence and corruption on every side. The Lamb of God is victorious! That is why, today, we can joyfully cry out: "Christ, my hope, has risen!" (Easter Sequence).

The resurrection of Jesus is indeed the basis of our hope. For in the light of this event, hope is no longer an illusion. Thanks to Christ – crucified and risen from the dead – hope does not disappoint! *Spes non confundit!* (cf. Rom 5:5). That hope is not an evasion, but a challenge; it does not delude, but empowers us.

All those who put their hope in God place their feeble hands in his strong and mighty hand; they let themselves be raised up and set out on a journey. Together with the risen Jesus, they become pilgrims of hope, witnesses of the victory of love and of the disarmed power of Life.

Christ is risen! These words capture the whole meaning of our existence, for we were not made for death but for life. Easter is the celebration of life! God created us for life and wants the human family to rise again! In his eyes, every life is precious! The life of a child in the mother's womb, as well as the lives of the elderly and the sick, who in more and more countries are looked upon as people to be discarded. ...

In the Lord's Paschal Mystery, death and life contended in a stupendous struggle, but the Lord now lives forever. He fills us with the certainty that we too are called to share in the life that knows no end, when the clash of arms and the rumble of death will be heard no more. Let us entrust ourselves to him, for he alone can make all things new (cf. Rev. 21:5)! Happy Easter to everyone!

Vatican.va

## Priest's Extraordinary Mercy to his Attacker

**Aleteia, 27-04-2025**

As Catholics celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, one modern story stands out as a powerful example of forgiveness and hope. Fr Paul Murphy, an Irish Army chaplain who survived a brutal attempt on his life in 2024, responded to that violence with extraordinary mercy – publicly forgiving the radicalized teenager who tried to murder him, and even embracing the young man in court.

Fr Murphy was stabbed outside an army barracks in Galway in 2024 by a 16-year-old assailant inspired by ISIS ideology, as reported by OSV News. The attack was vicious: The chaplain nearly lost his hand in the assault, according to Zenit, and spent months recovering from his injuries.

However, when he finally faced his attacker during a court hearing in April 2025, he showed no anger or bitterness. "I am in the business of forgiveness," he told the Dublin court, making clear that he bore no ill will toward the young man.

In an extraordinary victim-impact statement, Fr Murphy spoke directly to the would-be killer with compassion: "My only desire is that you would learn to see the error of your ways and, when the time comes, return to society to make a positive contribution to the world as a wholesome, happy, and loving person."

At the conclusion of the hearing, the teenager tearfully apologized, and Fr. Murphy stepped forward to shake his hand – then pulled him into a hug. It was a powerful scene of reconciliation. [...]

Aleteia.org

# What Happens After the Pope Dies?

By Lisa Zengarini, Vatican News 22-04-2025

The death of a Pope sets a chain of events in motion – traditions that mark the moments from the Pope's passing and his funeral to the start of the conclave and the election of his successor. ...

## **The College of Cardinals remains the body responsible for electing the Pope**

... As of 21 April 2025, the College included 135 Cardinal Electors, 108 of whom were appointed by Pope Francis, and 117 non-electors. Those who have already turned 80 years old on the day the *Sede Vacante* begins are excluded. However, Cardinals over 80 may still participate in preparatory meetings. ...

## **The Conclave, as an "ancient institution," is confirmed as the setting for the election of the new Pope**

John Paul II reaffirmed its essential structure and mandated that all election proceedings take place exclusively in the Sistine Chapel of the Apostolic Palace: ... *where everything contributes to fostering awareness of the presence of God, before whom each one will one day stand for judgment.*" (p.9 *Universi Dominici Gregis*) ...

For the entire duration of the election, the residences of the Cardinal electors and those involved in ensuring the proper conduct of the election are located in the Casa Santa Marta in Vatican City (p.42 UDG). Previously, cardinals were not allowed to leave the Sistine Chapel for the entire duration of the voting process. ...

## **The Vacant See**

The term "*Sede Vacante*" (Vacant See, in Latin) refers to the period between the end of a Pope's governance of the Church and the election of his successor. ...

## **Who "manages" the Vacant See?**

During the vacancy of the Apostolic See, the governance of the Church is entrusted to the College of Cardinals. However, their authority is limited to handling only ordinary or urgent matters and preparing for the election of the new Pope. ...

## **What happens to the heads of the Roman Curia during the Sede Vacante?**

Upon the death of the Pope, all Heads of Dicasteries of the Roman Curia resign with some exceptions aimed at maintaining the regular operations of the Vatican. ... The Secretaries of the Dicasteries remain in place.

## **What does the College of Cardinals do during the Vacant See?**

During the *Sede Vacante*, the College of Cardinals (who all convene in Rome, except in cases of health-related impediments) meets in two types of Cardinal Congregations:

1. General Congregations: These include the entire College of Cardinals (including those over the age limit for electing the new Pope). These General Congregations are held in the Apostolic Palace and are presided over by the Dean of the College (Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re). ...
2. Particular Congregations: These are composed of the Cardinal Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church and three Cardinals, one from each Order (Bishops, Priests, and Deacons), chosen by lot from among the Cardinal electors; these three assisting Cardinals serve for three days, after which they are replaced through a new random selection. This process continues even during the election. The Particular Congregation handles daily ordinary affairs, while more serious matters must be referred to the General Congregation.

## **What are the most urgent decisions made by the General Congregations?**

The General Congregations (held before the start of the election process) must promptly deliberate on the following key decisions (excluding procedures related to the Pope's death):

- Prepare accommodations at the *Domus Sanctae Marthae* for the Cardinals and set up the Sistine Chapel for the election procedures;
- Assign two distinguished and morally authoritative ecclesiastics the task of delivering two reflections to the Cardinals on the current challenges of the Church and the enlightened choice of the new Pope, and set the date for these reflections;
- Destroy the Fisherman's Ring and the Lead Seal, which were used to authenticate Apostolic Letters;
- Establish the date and time for the start of the voting process.

*Continued on p.9...*



**What happens immediately before the beginning of the election?**

The election is preceded by a solemn Eucharistic celebration with the votive Mass *Pro Eligendo Papa*, attended by the Cardinal electors. In the afternoon, the Cardinal electors proceed in a solemn procession to the Sistine Chapel, where the Conclave begins to elect the new Pope.

At the end of the procession inside the Sistine Chapel, each Cardinal elector takes the oath as prescribed in paragraph 53 of *Universi Dominici Gregis*. Through this oath, they commit, if elected, to faithfully fulfill the *Munus Petrinum* as Pastor of the Universal Church. They also pledge to maintain absolute secrecy regarding everything related to the election of the Roman Pontiff and to refrain from supporting any attempts of external interference in the election.

At this point, the Master of Pontifical Liturgical Celebrations proclaims *extra omnes*, meaning that all individuals who are not part of the Conclave must leave the Sistine Chapel. Only the Master himself and the ecclesiastic designated to deliver the second meditation remain. This meditation focuses on the grave responsibility that rests upon the electors and the necessity of acting with pure intentions for the good of the Universal Church, keeping only God before their eyes (paragraph 52).

Once the meditation is delivered, both the ecclesiastic and the Master of Pontifical Liturgical Celebrations leave. The Cardinal electors then recite prayers according to the *Ordo Sacrorum Rituum Conclavis* and listen to the Cardinal Dean, who asks whether they are ready to proceed with voting or if any clarifications regarding the rules and procedures outlined in *Universi Dominici Gregis* are needed.

**Measures to ensure confidentiality and prevent external interference**

All election procedures take place exclusively in the Sistine Chapel within the Vatican Apostolic Palace, which remains completely sealed off until the election is concluded. ... Throughout the election process, the Cardinal electors must refrain from sending letters or engaging in conversations, including phone calls, except in cases of extreme urgency. They are not allowed to send or receive messages of any kind, receive newspapers or magazines of any nature, or follow radio or television broadcasts.

**Number of votes required and majority needed for election**

To validly elect a new Pope, a two-thirds majority of the electors present is required. If the total number of electors is not evenly divisible by three, an additional vote is necessary. If voting begins on the afternoon of the first day, there will be only one ballot. On subsequent days, two ballots are held in the morning and two in the afternoon. ... After the votes are counted, all ballots are burned.

**What happens if the required majority is not reached?**

If the electors fail to reach an agreement on a candidate after three days of inconclusive voting, a break of up to one day is allowed for prayer, free discussion among voters, and a brief spiritual exhortation by the Cardinal Proto-Deacon (Cardinal Dominique Mamberti). Voting then resumes, and if no election occurs after seven additional ballots, another break is taken. This process repeats after another seven unsuccessful ballots. At this point, the *Camerlengo* will consult with the Cardinals on how to proceed. ...

**What happens immediately after a new Pope is elected?**

Once the election has taken place, the last of the Cardinal Deacons calls the Secretary of the College of Cardinals and the Master of Pontifical Liturgical Celebrations into the Sistine Chapel. The Dean of the College, on behalf of all the electors, asks for the elected candidate's consent with the following words: "*Do you accept your canonical election as Supreme Pontiff?*" Upon receiving consent, he then asks: "*What name do you wish to be called?*" The functions of a notary, with two Ceremonial Officers as witnesses, are carried out by the Master of Pontifical Liturgical Celebrations, who drafts the document of acceptance and records the chosen name. From this moment, the elected candidate acquires full and supreme authority over the universal Church. The Conclave ends immediately at this point. The Cardinal electors then pay homage and pledge obedience to the newly elected Pope, and thanks are given to God.

The Cardinal Proto-Deacon then announces to the faithful the election and the name of the new Pontiff with the famous line: "***Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum; Habemus Papam.***" Immediately afterward, the new Pope gives the Apostolic Blessing *Urbi et Orbi* from the Loggia of St. Peter's Basilica. ...

# We Must Not Be Afraid of Old Age

**From the preface that the late Pope Francis wrote on February 7 for the book in Italian by Cardinal Angelo Scola, Archbishop Emeritus of Milan, titled "Awaiting a New Beginning. Reflections on Old Age."**

Angelo Scola speaks to us of old age, his old age, which he writes about with a disarmingly intimate touch: "it came upon me with sudden acceleration and in many ways unexpectedly."

Already in his choice of the word with which he defines himself as "old", I find a resonance with the author. Yes, we must not be afraid of old age, we must not fear embracing becoming old, because life is life, and sugarcoating reality means betraying the truth of things. Restoring pride to a term too often considered unhealthy is a gesture for which we should be grateful to Cardinal Scola.

Because to say "old" does not mean "to be discarded," as a degraded culture of waste sometimes leads us to think. Saying "old" instead means saying experience, wisdom, knowledge, discernment, thoughtfulness, listening, slowness... Values of which we are in great need!

It is true, one becomes old, but this is not the problem: the problem is *how* one becomes old. If we live this time of life as a grace, and not with resentment; if we accept the time (even a long one) in which we experience diminished strength, the increasing fatigue of the body, the reflexes no longer what they were in our youth – with a sense of gratitude and thankfulness – well then, old age too becomes an age of life which, as Romano Guardini taught us, is truly fruitful and capable of radiating goodness.

Angelo Scola highlights the human and social value of grandparents. I have often emphasized how the role of grandparents is of fundamental importance for the balanced development of the young, and ultimately for a more peaceful society. Because their example, their words, their wisdom can instil in the young a far-sighted vision, the memory of the past, and the anchoring in values that endure.

Amid the frenzy of our societies, often devoted to the ephemeral and the unhealthy taste for appearances, the wisdom of grandparents becomes a shining beacon, shedding light on uncertainty and providing direction to grandchildren, who can draw from their experience something "extra" for their daily lives.

... Christianity is not so much an intellectual act or a moral choice, but rather the affection for a person – that Christ who came to meet us and decided to call us friends.

It is precisely the conclusion of these pages by Angelo Scola, a heartfelt confession of how he is preparing himself for the final encounter with Jesus, that gives us a consoling certainty: death is not the end of everything, but the beginning of something. It is a new beginning, as the title wisely highlights, because eternal life, which those who love already begin to experience on earth within the daily tasks of life – is beginning something that will never end.

And it is precisely for this reason that it is a "new" beginning, because we will live something we have never fully lived before: eternity.

VaticanNews.va 22-04-2025

## Mother of the Church

**St John Paul II, to Priests, Washington 06-10-1979**

This woman of faith, Mary of Nazareth, the Mother of God, has been given to us as a model in our pilgrimage of faith. From Mary, we learn to surrender to God's will in all things. From Mary, we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary, we learn to love Christ, her Son and the Son of God. For Mary is not only the Mother of God, she is Mother of the Church as well.

## Random Trivia

**See p.11 for answers**

1. How long is Easter 'day'?
2. How long is the Easter season?
3. How many popes are saints?
4. What number pope will the next pope be?
5. Who was St Benedict's twin?
6. Who was St Catherine of Sweden's mother?
7. Who is the youngest Cardinal elector now?
8. How old is he?

# Not Only the Patients Need to be Patient

*Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime, by Fr John Speekman (p.8,9)*

A hospital chaplain needs to have thick skin, patience and a healthy sense of humour.

On my rounds one day I bumped into two aboriginal men in their hospital gowns and bare feet chatting at the door of their ward. They were new admissions in for a few days of tests before possible heart surgery. I passed by in my 'blacks' and Roman collar and gave a cheery *Good morning*.

Instead of answering they looked me up and down with some disdain, computed that I was of no relevance to them, and continued chatting.

It was the same the next day, though on the third, one of them managed the tiniest *G'day* from the corner of his mouth.

On the fourth day they were both trapped in their adjoining beds with the 'Nil By Mouth' sign dangling above their heads. They were not happy. I approached the first one and said: *Operation today?*

*Yeah, mate ... er ... Father.*

*Don't worry, these heart procedures are nothing these days. They're just routine. You'll be right.* Then before he could answer: *Where are you from?*

*Dubbo!*

*Oh, the good country. I love that sort of country, almost outback. Let me give you a blessing before your op.*

What could he do but say: *Okay.*

So I put my hand on his head and prayed. His friend in the other bed didn't have the heart to refuse my offer of a blessing; most of his energy was going into the pre-op jitters.

Next day they were there in ICU – looking like two wounded rabbits. Each had a big vertical scar down the middle of his chest and each was clutching a towel folded up against the suture. They were not in a good mood and suffering considerably. I knew not to start joking around, gave them a quick blessing and left.

The next two days saw big improvements; there were no complications and the pain had left their eyes. *Can I give you a blessing this morning?*

*Sure thing, Father.*

The last time I saw them was back in the Coronary Care Unit. I was walking past their room to check the names on the board and they called out: *Hey, Father, you've forgotten the blessing!*

*No, I haven't, I'm just getting the list from the board.*

We talked for a good while that day. They knew they were going and would probably never see me again but we were almost friends. There was a warmth in that room, an understanding – I might even say, the Holy Spirit.

## Free Postage

Fr Speekman's book (see above) costs only \$15. Throughout 2025, all orders through ITD will be sent with *free postage!*

**Payment:** Cheques to be made out to Janet Kingman, or direct deposit details as follows:

Account name: Janet Kingman

BSB: 013-745

Account number: 2901-63632

Ed.

## Trivia Answers

See p.10 for questions

1. 8 days
2. 50 days
3. 83
4. 267<sup>th</sup>
5. St Scholastica
6. St Bridget of Sweden
7. Mikola Bychok, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Eparch of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne
8. 45 years old

## Eucharistic Adoration in Gippsland, Victoria

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
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 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 <sup>st</sup> Fri 4pm–8pm (every 2 <sup>nd</sup> month, Jan. on)
Wonthaggi	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday (9.30am Mass) – 10.30am

## Prayer for Conversion

### Saint Francis of Assisi

Most High and glorious God, Cast your light into the darkness of my heart.

Grant me right faith, firm hope, perfect charity, and profound humility.

Grant me, Lord, wisdom and understanding, so that I may do your true and holy will. Amen.

(prayed after Way of the Cross 2025)

## Very Special

### St John Paul II to youth, New Orleans 12-09-1987

Each of us is *an individual*, a person, a creature of God, one of his children, someone very special whom God loves and for whom Christ died. This identity of ours determines the way we must live, the way we must act, the way we must view our mission in the world. We come from God, we depend on God, *God has a plan for us* – a plan for our lives, for our bodies, for our souls, for our future. This plan for us is extremely important – so important that God became man to explain it to us.

## Contact *Into the Deep*

[www.stoneswillshout.com](http://www.stoneswillshout.com)

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ITD is released on or around the first day of each month by email and on the website; printed copies about a week later.

**Editor:** Janet Kingman

Subscription is free.

**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.

**The last issue of ITD** will be October 2025.

## 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