

Into the Deep

Issue 261

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

October 2025

The Final Issue!

So here we are, at the final issue of Into the Deep. I don't think it has sunk in yet. For 23 years, ITD has been part of my life, my rhythm, my schedule. And now it will be over. Bittersweet, I think, is the word that best describes it. I look forward to the freedom of no reading, no pressure, no deadlines, all those extra hours in my life; but at the same time, I will miss being able to share the 'gems' that I find, the words that move me or enlighten me or teach me or even amuse me. It's been wonderful being able to share them with this little 'community' of like-minded Catholic readers over all the years. The letters I have received for this final issue brought tears to my eyes. Thank you!

ITD has come a long way from the first, experimental, single-page issue in October 2002. It was embraced with open arms by faithful, orthodox Catholics around the diocese and then around the country who were feeling isolated within their own liberal parishes or dioceses, and who lacked a voice. Letters to the editor came from far and wide, donations kept coming in, and support and encouragement came from many quarters, including from a number of priests who were themselves feeling isolated or targeted due to their faithfulness to Church teaching. Our local diocese was not happy with us, the powers-that-be kept trying to tone us down or shut us up, and there were times we relied on a small committee of strong and faithful men to defend ITD's existence in meetings with local priests. We challenged the sorry state of Catholic education and raised the ire of those involved in it. We replaced our local Catholic newspaper as a place for people to have their letters published and their voice heard. When Fr Speekman was unjustly removed from his parish, ITD was able to cover the unfolding of the whole saga over the many long years it went on. We had interest from local and national media. ITD grew, matured, and cemented itself.

Then in more recent years, although donations continued to come in, readership started dwindling. Many of our older readers passed on (may they rest in peace), and few younger readers joined. With so much information now readily accessible by anyone online, and everyone having a voice on social media, the need for something like ITD seems to have lessened. And the editor has been looking for a rest! All things gradually started pointing to a decision to end ITD, and it worked out well that October 2025 would be the time, having used up donations, reached another birthday, and then freeing me up for my 2-month holiday coming up with my sister. And it has to end sometime anyway. For those who will miss ITD, I recommend reading ITD from the first issue again – it makes for fascinating reading and some interesting history!

Please remember to pray for all our deceased readers of ITD. Many would not have family who are still practising Catholics, and may not have anyone to offer Masses for their souls. I have used the 'leftover' funds in our ITD account to have Masses offered for readers past and present.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all who have been instrumental in keeping ITD going all these years: the readers, the letter-writers, the proof-readers, the friends, those who have donated so generously, those who have prayed, those who have assisted and encouraged, and of course my husband who has supported me and kept the home fires burning while I have been engrossed in ITD work for days on end each month. Farewell and God bless, as I ride out into the sunset! And feel free to keep in touch! - Ed.

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

Resources For You

I was talking to a couple recently who expressed their appreciation for ITD over the years and how they would miss the homilies and speeches of the Pope. They asked where they could continue to read these. Others have asked for similar information on ITD's sources and resources. So here are a few:

- Vatican.va is the official Vatican website where you will get every speech, homily, message, Angelus address or General Audience of the current Pope, or Popes of recent history, in full (under "Supreme Pontiffs"). This is what I have used for ITD.
- VaticanNews.va is the more 'newsy' website that has daily news from the Vatican, including summaries of homilies, addresses, interviews, etc. There are also videos of various events – some 1-minute compilations of audiences and events, and some full-length videos (an hour or more) the actual event, including Masses. You can subscribe to Vatican News daily emails to get a few articles a day (free subscription).
- Aleteia.org is a website that has short, easy-to-read Catholic articles, background information, pictures, stories, trivia etc. They are often shared on Facebook. If you're on Facebook you can 'follow' Aleteia for more regular updates, otherwise you can just browse their website.
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church and Code of Canon Law are available online at Vatican.va, as are all Vatican documents in full (under "Magisterium").
- The newspaper L'Osservatore Romano is available at Vatican.va where you can read some articles or you can subscribe to a weekly digital edition in English (paid subscription).
- Vatican Media Live has a livestream of St Peter's Square on YouTube – just search "Vatican Media Live".
- Anything from Ascension Press (ascensionpress.com) is reliable. Fr Mike Schmitz's "Bible in a Year", and "Catechism in a Year" podcasts are incredible, and well worth the commitment of 20 minutes a day on average. They are free to listen to via podcast apps or YouTube or on the website. You don't have to do it on consecutive days – just do what you can, when you can, and you'll be glad you started.
- "The Chosen" TV series about the life of Jesus, available free on The Chosen app, is brilliant. It is personal and engaging and insightful and entertaining. Series 1-5 is currently available. You'll get hooked – in the best possible way!

Ed.

Donations

It can be hard knowing where to donate your hard-earned money when you're looking for worthy causes. Thank you to those who have chosen ITD in the past. For future, here are a few options:

- Aid to the Church in Need (aidtochurch.org), an international Catholic charity dedicated to the support of suffering, oppressed, and persecuted Christians. You can make a donation, or request Masses offered for your intentions.
- Mary's Meals (marysmeals.org) aims to provide a daily meal for every child in their place of education in some of the world's poorest countries.
- Diamond Women (diamondwomen.com.au), based in Sydney, provides support for women facing unplanned pregnancies, counselling and material assistance, as well as mentorship and parenting programs. Ph 1300 851 592.

Ed.

Call for Daily Rosary in October

Pope Leo XIV, after General Audience, 24-09-2025

Dear brothers and sisters, the month of October is now approaching, and in the Church it is dedicated in a special way to the Holy Rosary.

Therefore, I invite everyone, every day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for peace: personally, in the family, in the community.

I also invite those who serve in the Vatican to say this prayer in Saint Peter's Basilica every day, at 19.00.

In particular, the evening of Saturday 11 October, at 18.00, [*3am Sunday 12 October in Australia - Ed.*] we will pray it together here in Saint Peter's Square, during the vigil for the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality, also commemorating the anniversary of the opening of Vatican Council II.

Vatican.va

Diligence and Love of God

Many thanks for all your good work over the last 23 years producing Into the Deep. It has been a big and constant task which you have achieved with diligence and love of God. I am sure He will richly reward you. For what it's worth, I believe you have made the right decision.

May God bless you and Greg. Perhaps He has something else in mind where your talents can be put to good use.

Pat O'Brien, Sale, Victoria

Saving Back Issues

I would like to thank you for all the years you have made Into the Deep available for us. There have been many very interesting teachings. I looked forward to ITD every month. I have saved some of them and every now and then I go through different ones. Always very interesting. I'm going to miss it, but I thank God for the 23 years you gave us – so much time.

May God keep you and Gregory in good health. Enjoy your 'retirement' from ITD!

Rose Portelli, Morwell, Victoria

With Prayers

You have done an amazing job, Janet. God bless you for what you undertook. What are you going to fill in that 'vacuum' with? Whatever it is, God bless your endeavours.

With prayers of thanksgiving for your years of labouring in God's vineyard.

Merle Ross, Rockhampton, Queensland

The Vacuum

In response to Merle's question above – What will I fill the 'vacuum' with? – I can tell you I have a long list! But the first will be an extended holiday with my sister who is visiting Australia for the first time and arrives next week! It will be lovely to relax and enjoy the time and travel together, without having to schedule time for ITD work to be done. Other than that, I look forward to some reading (books, not online articles); having more time to be present to friends; having more time for more hobbies (endless possibilities!); maybe some volunteering; and eventually some more big road trips with my husband. I am not fully retired from my regular job though, so I can't get too carried away just yet – but rest assured the extra time will suitably enjoyed!

Ed.

A Unique Service

I write to thank you for 23 years of producing Into the Deep. I am especially grateful for all the support you have given me through your monthly editions and particularly throughout the time of my difficulties in the Diocese of Sale. You and your husband Greg took my part throughout and I can never thank you enough.

Although the time has come to cease production of Into the Deep it has served as an evangelising and catechising tool for all its readers. Whenever someone wrote with a question, a doubt, or a just a comment you would make sure to 'fact check' the teaching of the Church and in the following issue (sometimes the same issue) of Into the Deep you would provide a number of official statements from the Catechism, the Code of Canon Law, or a teaching of one of the Popes so that there was no doubt what the Church's position was on that particular issue. In this respect I consider that Into the Deep provided a unique service to its readers, one which cost you many hours of hard work.

After all these years I guess you will miss being 'the Editor' for some time yet but I hope you will soon find a replacement. I ask God to bless you and Gregory as you have blessed me.

Fr John Speekman, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales

"The Blessed Virgin is that beautiful creature
who never disappointed the Good Lord." – **Curé of Ars**

We Must Not Outstay Our Welcome

Just a short note to say thank you for your many years working for the Lord. I have enjoyed ITD over the many years. These have been hard years for both of us. The times were hard and our charisms (mine abortion and sexual abuse) were not the ones people wanted to hear. But we kept going.

I also in this past year had to close the office of Victims of Abortion and the counselling aspect of this because support had dwindled to virtually nothing (Covid contributed to this) but also because of some health issues. I think the Lord knew what was coming and he said, "No more, Anne." We had the arrangement right from the beginning that I will know when to stop when he stopped funding my work and so I knew. I don't mind because three score years and ten and bit more, it's time to see if real roses exist, and if they do, then to smell them.

Thank you, dear Janet, your many articles have always been good and I loved your support of our Holy Father Pope Francis when all seemed against him. I think he was one of the very best Popes we were gifted by our Lord.

I'm a bit sad that you are finishing but we must not outstay our welcome we must allow the younger ones to take the baton and run with it. They must fight the battle we have valiantly fought, at times winning, and maybe at times not so. I've also very much appreciated Gregory's writings.

Enjoy your well-earned rest in whatever way you delight in.

Anne Lastman, Counsellor Emerita, Perth, Western Australia

Remember that Anne is selling her books at a reduced price ("Redeeming Grief" and "Hidden Pain" - see ITD July 2025, p.5 for more). You can order at www.victimsofabortion.com.au or write to Anne at Appt EO1/108 Terrace Rd, East Perth, WA 6004. Please support Anne in this great work of hers. - **Ed.**

Incredible Times

Thank you so much for your 23 years of Into the Deep. I have so appreciated the journey.

Fr Speekman's journey from way back, then his great book – God bless him abundantly!

And I pray that you will enjoy your time with your husband after ITD, and travel some more of our beautiful Australia.

I turned 89 this year – not easy growing old! The way the world is at the moment is bringing back so many memories of the Depression and World War II for me. This morning we had President Trump speaking, the memorial for Charlie Kirk, and his darling tearful wife, who said I forgive, after what Jesus said from the Cross. What incredible times we are living in.

Wishing you many more years together and all God's blessings. May you enjoy your time and freedom to do other things.

I enclose a cheque for 10 more of Fr Speekman's books please, which I will put in College and Church libraries.

Cynthia Lourey, Warrnambool, Victoria

I Am He

Pope Leo XIV, General Audience, 27-08-2025

"Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them, 'Whom do you seek?'" (Jn 18:4).

Jesus knows. However, he decides not to retreat. He gives himself up. Not out of weakness, but out of love. A love so full, so mature, that it does not fear rejection.

Jesus is not seized: he lets himself be taken. He is not the victim of an arrest, but the giver of a gift.

In this gesture, he embodies a hope of salvation for our humanity: to know that, even in the darkest hour, one can remain free to love to the end.

When Jesus replies, "I am he", the soldiers fall to the ground. It is a mysterious passage, since this expression, in biblical revelation, recalls the very name of God: "I am".

Jesus reveals that God's presence is manifested precisely where humanity experiences injustice, fear, loneliness. Right there, the true light is ready to shine without fear of being overcome by the advancing darkness.

Vatican.va

Best Catholic Publication

Over the past 23 years I have enjoyed reading Into the Deep. It has been a spiritual, faith-filled and educational read.

Some of the articles that stand out the most for me are the homilies by Fr John Speakman and of late pieces from his book "Things Serious, Silly and Sublime". Letters and pieces written by Gregory Kingman on the priesthood, the Catholic Church and particularly the brilliant seven-part series on Baptism (in April to October 2008) and the writings of our Popes.

Into the Deep has covered very important issues over the course of its journey allowing Catholics to write letters and voice concerns. In my opinion this has been the best Catholic publication basing its writings on the truth, Catechism and what the Church teaches.

Behind the wheel is Janet Kingman, editor, who has tirelessly researched, prepared, answered letters and done so much work behind the scenes to produce such a wonderful publication. Thank you so very much. Into the Deep has enriched the lives of so many of us readers. I am sure many will agree with me that we appreciate all the time and effort you put into preparing Into the Deep.

May God continue to shower many blessings on you Janet, and Gregory, and that you enjoy some well-deserved down time.

I would like to thank the small group of people with whom I shared copies of Into the Deep – thank you for your feedback, stamps and donations.

Josie Vitale, Morwell, Victoria

A Mouthpiece

Thank you for the issues of Into the Deep over the many years. In the beginning it gave a mouthpiece for people not understanding what was going on in the Church with all the experiments of the Holy Mass and the 'wreckovation' of our churches with altars and altar rails being pulled down and statues being taken away. We now understand. I remember reading about Benalla, Victoria, in the 1990's and could not believe it. I think it was the first church to be wrecked.

Thank you for modern years giving us items of what our Popes have said on special occasions. I have enjoyed reading about all the Popes' words in ITD, not being 'au fait' with modern technology. I am still learning! Thank you for the quizzes – great fun! Thanks for publishing people's comments. A lot of work to produce the newsletter each month! I hope you enjoy a rest now.

I wish Fr Speakman well and hope he has many friends in the "Cancelled Priests Club"! Once a priest, always a priest!

We had good teaching from nuns when I was at school on the Faith many, many years ago. I hope Catholic Education everywhere will pick up its responsibility teaching *good Catholic Faith* to all its students.

I enclose payment for two more books of Fr Speakman's which give an idea of what priests do when not saying Mass. I put them in the back of my church.

Wendy Harrap, George Town, Tasmania

Great Service

You have provided a great service to Catholics who struggle to maintain their faith and assert it against the onslaught of modernism. I know many will be sad to see you go but also know it is a well-earned rest. If your fingers get itchy, write something and I'll publish it in TBT!

Mark Gross, Idaho, USA

**Editor, Truth be Told, newsletter supplement of the Western Dominican Lay Provincial Council,
opwestlaity.org**

I Was Not Alone

I would like to thank you for the many years of Into the Deep which, when it first started and Modernism was seeping into our parishes, gave me hope that I was not alone in my traditional understanding of my Faith. When I first started getting ITD the hurt from Fr Speekman's unfair dismissal from your parish because of his clash with the Catholic school was still very much the issue. It was always so sad to read what was happening to Fr Speekman. At that time modernism was very much a problem in Sydney too. I was doing a Catechist ministry course and would often have problems with what I was hearing from the presenters. One of them actually said to me that she understood where I was coming from because she thought that way until she had done further study at the Catholic Uni up here. I was told that I was "dangerous" by the priest when I made comment at an RCIA workshop. I could not trust the archdiocese's bookshop – it was full of modern authors.

Then George Pell was appointed as our archbishop and everything slowly changed – Fr Flader was appointed in charge of Adult Education and the bookshop – out went all the modernist books and he gave a series of talks on the Catechism. This was an answer to prayer, as I was asking the Lord whether what I was hearing at the ministry course was true or not. Guess what – all that Fr Flader presented as coming from the CCC was what I had believed! The CCD team was also changed and new lessons – "Christ our Light and Life" replaced the "Joy For Living" series (which didn't have Jesus' miracles "so that the children didn't get miracles confused with magic" – I was told when I asked).

Meanwhile my own parish priest decided that we should all stand during the Eucharistic Prayer, which most parishioners were happy to do (not hubby and me) until our current parish priest refurbished our church/hall into a beautiful church with pews with kneelers.

So you can understand why I was so happy when I started reading your ITD and hearing of similar stories and that there were many others out there who also longed for a return to our beautiful traditional faith, which we, in Sydney, have – thanks be to God.

I would also like to thank you for the constant excerpts of quotes from Popes, past and present, and from the saints, especially related to the seasons as they cycle through each year. They too have been a wonderful source of encouragement and spiritual insight-fullness, which we don't always hear from our pulpits.

I would especially like to thank you for your quotes from Pope Francis. They helped me appreciate his papacy in a time when many were concerned with what he was, and was not, saying. My husband and I are reading his autobiography - "Hope". Not only does it give us an understanding of who he was, but why he did and said what he did, it makes me appreciate what he did and said.

I now am enjoying your quotes from Pope Leo XIV. So thank you very much for the many years of good and inspirational Catholic reading. They will be missed. May our loving God continue to bless you and your family in all you do.

Maureen Wright, Lurnea, New South Wales

Deep Regret

It is with deep regret I write about my beloved newsletter. I am ninety years old, a practising Catholic still able to attend Holy Mass without a car as my family feels I should not drive anymore. They are probably right but I lose a lot of pleasure in the fact of walking rather than driving but am grateful for good health still. Thank you for the past pleasure gained from Into the Deep and God bless you.

Mora Morrissey, Melbourne, Victoria

Sharing Thoughts

ITD comes to an end in October but has given us the opportunity to share thoughts for several years. Our archeologists and researchers assure us that ideas can achieve their purpose well after the time that they were first expressed. My personal struggle with digital numbers was poor preparation for the computer cataclysm caused by two binary digits. ITD demonstrates what can be done, and perhaps what is yet to be done.

John Cooney (R.I.P.), late of Cowwarr, Victoria

The Battle Cry

When Into the Deep started, the Church in our diocese of Sale was led by a very liberal bishop. Spiritually it was bankrupt, and in a serious state of decay. It had (and still has) an education system whose Religious Education curriculum taught creedless Christianity, and which had its heart set on unchurching young people. To put it bluntly, in all respects our diocese was lost, and the faithful in the diocese were left powerless and voiceless; especially after my wife and I had a run-in with the Catholic Education Office over the parlous state of faith education in our schools.

Providentially, after the education saga, my wife (the editor) and I found ourselves in Morwell parish with one of the most faithful, fatherly, orthodox parish priests in the diocese, who took the Church's universal call to holiness seriously. He led from the front, and was relentless in preaching regular attendance in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sunday and weekday Masses, weekly Eucharistic adoration, and daily recitation of the Rosary; he exhorted us especially to frequently receive the sacraments in faith, and make our encounter with Jesus an experience of ongoing conversion. He gave us all the weapons to engage in personal spiritual combat, and then planted the seed of Into the Deep to engage in combat against the corrupt, sinful and sinister forces destroying the faith in our diocese.

For me, as a regular contributor to its publication, it meant that first and foremost, I needed to be engaged in a personal ongoing process of ordering my soul, continual conversion, faith formation and self-evangelisation. In this regard, it was instrumental and providential that Into the Deep regularly published the catecheses, encyclicals, preaching and writings of our Holy Fathers (Pope John Paul II, Benedict XVI, Francis, and now Leo) through the period of 23 years. Especially Pope John Paul II, who in his encyclical on the Consecrated Life wrote, "the memory of the great evangelizers, both men and women, who were themselves profoundly evangelized, shows that in order to face the world of today it is necessary to have people who are lovingly dedicated to the Lord and his Gospel." (n.81).

The Church, together with Into the Deep, taught me to strive to live by grace so that Jesus' gift of faith may grow stronger in me every day, and find expression in all my ways of living; so that I may strive to become an effective and fruitful witness of my faith, and to never grow tired of striving to be all our faith calls us to be – charitable, kind, forgiving, merciful, moral and virtuous.

Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria

There Isn't Another One Like It

God bless you all! I am so sorry to read that ITD is ending! I greatly respect and value ITD for its Catholic orthodoxy – I can always count on everything in it being correct and true to the teachings of the Holy Church. I will miss it. There isn't another newsletter like it. Will the past issues of ITD remain online? I'd like to read them. As they say, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." I found that a really positive thing about the articles is that they were manageable in length. You could bravely head right into the Issue and digest each brilliant morsel relatively quickly and easily. Just a great newsletter!

May Our Lord continue to bless and keep you and yours and all the family of ITD readers. And thanks again!

Mary M, Detroit, USA

Future of ITD Website

In answer to Mary's question above – Will past ITD issues remain online? – my answer is as yet unclear. My web hosting fees have nearly doubled in recent years and I resolved not to renew after the end of ITD, but I am rethinking that at the moment. I may renew for one more year. Perhaps the safest is for you to download issues to your own device before April (when my renewal is due), to ensure you have them all. They certainly make for interesting reading – enjoy! - Ed.

What a Journey!

In October 2002 we began a journey to understand what was happening in our schools and parishes in our diocese of Sale: and what a journey it has been.

Here we are in 2025, 23 years later and not a lot has changed in the diocese, but we have become wiser and stronger and no longer afraid to speak out when we see things going wrong. We have learned so much from the accurate reports from the Vatican as well as overseas and local Church news in ITD.

So a heartfelt "thank you" to the editor, Janet Kingman for the hours, days, and weeks of research needed to produce such an informative newsletter. To Gregory a willing helper, for the timely deliveries and so many informative written contributions over the years. We will miss ITD and the expectation of interesting reading online and or the printed copies delivered to our door but we understand the circumstances.

Congratulations on a much-appreciated effort. Farewell ITD.

Joe & Helen Palma, Morwell, Victoria

The Rosary

St Pio of Pietrelcina

The Rosary is a weapon in our hands with which we can overcome the devil's attacks.

Our Lady has never refused me a grace through the recitation of the Rosary.

The Rosary is the weapon that wins all battles.

The Angelus

Pope Francis, Angelus address 29-09-2024, Brussels

We now turn to the Virgin Mary as we recite the Angelus together. This was a very popular prayer in past generations. It should be revived, for it is a synthesis of the Christian mystery, and the Church teaches us to incorporate it into our daily activities. I commend it especially to you young people, and I entrust all of you to our Blessed Mother, who is depicted here, beside the altar, as the Seat of Wisdom. Indeed, how much we need the wisdom of the Gospel! Let us ask the Holy Spirit for it often.

Vatican.va

Attention to Detail

A huge THANK YOU for the huge, huge generosity of sheer demanding... outstanding and exemplary effort for now 23 long years.

The research of the very best of articles especially Papal homilies and addresses... insightful editorials... an invaluable local input... the gathering of material and arrangement for print together with distribution per post or internet... all of this requiring time – hours and hours of attention to every detail for every monthly issue... and... not to overlook... cost!

As one who has been a privileged recipient for all these years... Congratulations on a superb contribution to the truly Catholic Faith in Gippsland... and beyond our shores. Congratulations indeed... And my deepest appreciation.

So, Janet, and your ever devoted husband Greg and associates of more than two decades... God love and reward all of you.

With more than a tinge of sadness in bidding farewell ... I am most grateful.

Fr M J Ward CSsR, Melbourne, Victoria

Appreciated

Thank you for sending your informative newsletter for all these years. It has been appreciated. I hope you keep well in these challenging times.

James Leonard, Bendigo, Victoria

Prayer for Priests

St John Vianney

God, please give to your Church today many more priests after your own heart.

May they be worthy representatives of Christ the Good Shepherd.

May they wholeheartedly devote themselves to prayer and penance; be examples of humility and poverty; shining models of holiness; tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God; zealous dispensers of your grace in the sacraments.

May their loving devotion to your Son Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mary his Mother be the twin fountains of fruitfulness for their ministry.

Amen.

How They Died

Deaths of the Apostles

Peter	Crucified upside down
Andrew	Crucified on an X-shaped cross
John	Died naturally
James	Killed by sword
Philip	Crucified upside down
Bartholomew	Skinned alive
Thomas	Slain by a spear
Matthew	Killed by Hircanus
James (son of Alphaeus)	Stoned to death
Thaddeus	Killed with an axe
Simon	Sawn in half
Matthias	Beheaded

From Aleteia.org (on Facebook)

The Quality of Our Lives

Pope Leo XIV, in a video message on the occasion of the "ALS Walk for Life" in Chicago, 20-09-2025

You have been given a very difficult burden to bear. I wish it otherwise. Your sufferings, however, offer you an opportunity to discover and affirm a profound truth: The quality of human life is not dependent on achievement. The quality of our lives is dependent on love. In your suffering, you can experience a depth of human love previously unknown. You can grow in gratefulness for all that has been given and for all the people who are caring for you now. You can develop a profound sense of the beauty of creation, of life in this world and of the mystery of love.

Vatican.va

When Forgiveness is Granted

Pope Leo XIV, Jubilee of Consolation, 15-09-2025

The violence suffered cannot be erased, but forgiveness granted to those who offend us is a foretaste of the Kingdom of God on earth. It is the fruit of God's work that puts an end to evil and establishes justice.

Freedom From Ourselves

Pope Leo XIV, Angelus address, 31-08-2025

In this Sunday's Gospel (Lk 14:1.7-14), Jesus is invited to a meal by one of the leaders of the Pharisees. ... [H]e saw people rushing to sit in the places of honour, something that also happens today...

Sisters and brothers, when we sit together at the table of the Eucharist on the Lord's Day, we too should be willing to let Jesus speak. He becomes our guest and he can tell us how he sees us. It is very important that we see ourselves through his eyes: to see how frequently we reduce life to a competition, how anxious we become to obtain some sort of recognition, and how pointlessly we compare ourselves to others. Stopping to reflect, letting ourselves be taken aback by a word that challenges our hearts' priorities, is to experience freedom, the freedom to which Jesus calls us.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of "humility" in describing perfect freedom (cf. Lk 14:11). Humility is really freedom from ourselves. It is born when the Kingdom of God and its righteousness become our real concern and we allow ourselves to lift up our eyes and look ahead: not down at our feet, but at what lies ahead! Those who exalt themselves generally think that nothing is more interesting than themselves; yet deep down, they are quite insecure. Whereas those who know that they are precious in God's eyes, who know they are God's children, have greater things to be worried about; they possess a sublime dignity all their own. Once we learn to take the last places, rather than striving for the first, that dignity will appear, and we will come to the fore simply and effortlessly.

Dear friends, today let us pray that the Church will always be a school of humility for everyone, a home where all are welcome, a place where rivalries are set aside and where Jesus still speaks to us and teaches us to imitate his own humility and freedom.

Vatican.va

Real Hope

Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the year 2025 (n.24)

Hope finds its supreme witness in *the Mother of God*. In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naive optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life.

Like every mother, whenever Mary looked at her Son, she thought of his future. Surely she kept pondering in her heart the words spoken to her in the Temple by the elderly Simeon: "This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too" (Lk 2:34-35).

At the foot of the cross, she witnessed the passion and death of Jesus, her innocent son. Overwhelmed with grief, she nonetheless renewed her "fiat", never abandoning her hope and trust in God. In this way, Mary cooperated for our sake in the fulfilment of all that her Son had foretold in announcing that he would have to "undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mk 8:31). In the travail of that sorrow, offered in love, Mary became our Mother, the Mother of Hope.

It is not by chance that popular piety continues to invoke the Blessed Virgin as *Stella Maris* [Star of the Sea], a title that bespeaks the sure hope that, amid the tempests of this life, the Mother of God comes to our aid, sustains us and encourages us to persevere in hope and trust.

Vatican.va

When Tears Are Glasses

Pope Leo XIV, Jubilee of Consolation, 15-09-2025

In times of darkness, even when all outward appearances suggest otherwise, God does not abandon us. Rather, it is precisely in these moments that we are invited more than ever to place our hope in the closeness of the Saviour who never forsakes us.

We seek for someone to console us, and often find no one. At times, we even experience difficulty listening to the voices of those who sincerely wish to share our pain. This happens. There are situations in which words are not helpful and become almost meaningless. In such moments, perhaps only tears remain, but sometimes even these may have run dry. Pope Francis once called to mind the tears of Mary Magdalene, confused and alone before Jesus' empty tomb. "She simply weeps," he said. "You see, there are times in our lives when tears are the glasses through which we see Jesus. There is a moment in our lives when only tears prepare us to see Jesus. And what is this woman's message? 'I have seen the Lord.'" [Morning Meditation, 02-04-2013]

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Sacraments are for the Living

I received this question from a reader in regard to the story published on page 11 of the September issue of ITD, entitled "Sacraments are for the living", from Fr John Speakman's book "Things Serious, Silly and Sublime". Below is the response from Fr Speakman. **Ed.**

Q: What is the priest talking about when he said he gave absolution and plenary indulgence to the man "Sergio" who had already died?

A: Since no one can say exactly when the soul leaves the body after death the Church permits us to anoint people up to about three hours after apparent death and give them a conditional anointing. In other words we say "if you are alive..." may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit, etc. Your enquirer is right in his assumption that we cannot anoint someone who has died.

Thank You, Father

Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime, by Fr John Speakman (p.83)

Occasionally in the hospital we get patients who have been in altercations with 'someone' and have bullet wounds or stab wounds or other such painful injuries. When I arrived at ICU one morning there were policemen at the door and inside the door. I had to show my identity to get in and found a young man with multiple wounds; he was in a coma.

My list told me that he was Catholic and I got to work. Absolution, Anointing, Apostolic Plenary Indulgence and a Chaplet of Mercy. A good morning's work, I told myself, perhaps with too much satisfaction.

Over the next few days I came in each morning and renewed my Anointing and Chaplet of Mercy until one morning I discovered him awake but still flat on his back, unable to move.

I leaned over him and introduced myself, explaining that I had been visiting him over the last few days and had anointed him. He opened his eyes and looked me in the face for a moment and quietly said: *F... off!*

10 Clangers from 'Catholics'

Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime, by Fr John Speakman (p.50)

1. *I'm really a good person, Father.*
2. *I'm very Catholic.*
3. *You don't have to go to Church to show you're a Catholic.*
4. *Mum never committed a sin in her life.*
5. *I know people who are more Christian than the ones who go to Church.*
6. *We want our child to make up his own mind.*
7. *I go to Mass on the television.*
8. *I don't go to Mass but I have my faith.*
9. *The Church should get with the times.*
10. *I heard we're allowed to do that now; my friend told me.*

Future Orders

For future orders of "Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime" by Fr John Speakman, please email me at tsss.contact@gmail.com or write to me: 12 Vincent Road, Morwell, VIC 3840 Australia. Cost is \$15, with free postage. Cheques (made out to Janet Kingman) can be posted to the above address, or direct deposit made to: a/c name: Janet Kingman, BSB 013-745, a/c number: 2901-63632. Proceeds to charity.

Ed.

A round ... sung to whatever tune you like

Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime, by Fr John Speakman (p.70)

trees
are only wood
with leaves
they come and go
they're only there
for show
you know ... *and*

sheep
are only
uncooked meat
a little lamb
fits snugly in the pan
that's why
they bleat ... *and*

eggs
are chicks
without their legs
which came before
no one is really sure
the question begs ... *and*

**Thank you, Fr Speakman! For serious, for sublime,
and yes, for silly too! - Ed.**

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

The Whole Trinity

St Mary Magdalene de Pazzi

O Sisters, if we would only comprehend the fact that while the Eucharistic Species remain within us, Jesus is there and working in us inseparably with the Father and the Holy Spirit and therefore the whole Holy Trinity is there.

Facing Headwinds

**Pope Leo XIV, to Mediterranean Youth Council
05-09-2025**

Brothers and sisters, do not be afraid! Sow seeds of peace wherever seeds of hatred and resentment are springing up. Be patient builders of unity where polarization and enmity prevail. Be the voice of those who have no voice in calling for justice and respect for human dignity. Be light and salt where the flame of faith and the taste for life are waning. Do not give up if you meet with those who do not understand you. As Saint Charles de Foucauld used to say, God also uses headwinds to bring us to port.

Vatican.va

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

Editor: Janet Kingman

This is the final issue of Into the Deep

The above contact details will remain for those wishing to stay in touch, and I may post occasionally on the ITD Facebook page.

All issues of ITD, from Issue no. 1 of October 2022 to this final Issue no. 261 of October 2025, are currently available on the website.

However, I may not renew the website subscription when it becomes due in April 2026. You can download now what you would like to keep.

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 St John Paul II