

Into the Deep

Issue 138

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

May 2014

Share The Easter Joy!

Pope Francis, General Audience, 03-04-2013

Unfortunately, there have often been attempts to obscure the faith in Jesus' Resurrection and doubts have crept in even among believers themselves. Our faith is 'watered down', we might say; not strong faith.

Sometimes this has been because of superficiality, sometimes because of indifference, because we are busy with thousands of other things that seem more important than our faith, or even because we have a limited view of life.

But it is precisely the Resurrection that offers us the greatest hope because it opens our lives and the life of the world to God's eternal future, to complete happiness, to the certainty that evil, sin, and death can be conquered. This leads us to living our everyday lives more confidently, to facing them courageously and committedly. Christ's Resurrection shines new light on our everyday realities. Christ's Resurrection is our strength! ...

The women are compelled by love and know how to welcome this announcement with faith. They believe and immediately they share [the announcement]. They don't keep it for themselves but convey it. They can't contain the joy of knowing that Jesus is alive, the hope that fills their hearts.

This should also happen in our lives. We should feel the joy of being Christians! We believe in the Risen One who has conquered evil and death! We must have the courage to 'go out' to bring this joy and this light to all the areas of our lives.

Christ's Resurrection is our greatest certainty. It is our most precious treasure! How can we not share this treasure, this certainty, with others? It is not just for us: it is to be proclaimed; to be given to others; to be shared with others. This is precisely our witness.

Vatican Information Service 03-04-2013

Don't Be Naïve

Pope Francis, Morning Mass 11-04-2014

We are all tempted because the law of our spiritual life, our Christian life is a struggle: a struggle. That's because the Prince of this world, Satan, doesn't want our holiness, he doesn't want us to follow Christ.

Maybe some of you might say: 'But Father, how old fashioned you are to speak about the devil in the 21st century!' But look out, because the devil is present! The devil is here, even in the 21st century! And we mustn't be naïve. We must learn from the Gospel how to fight against Satan.

Zenit.org 11-04-2014

Our Pope Saints

Pope Francis, canonising Pope John XXIII and John Paul II, 27-04-2014:

"For the honour of the Blessed Trinity, the exaltation of the Catholic faith and the increase of the Christian life, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and our own, after due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance, and having sought the counsel of many of our brother Bishops, we declare and define Blessed

John XXIII

John Paul II

be Saints and we enrol them among the Saints, decreeing that they are to be venerated as such by the whole Church.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen".

*"The saints do not ask us
to applaud them;
they ask that we imitate them."*

Pope John Paul II

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

Pray the Rosary Together

Pope Francis, General Audience, 01-05-2013

In the silence of his daily activity, St Joseph shared with Mary a single, common focal point of attention: Jesus. They accompany and guard, with dedication and tenderness, the growth of the Son of God made man for us, reflecting on everything that happens. In the Gospels, Luke points out twice the attitude of Mary, which is also that of St Joseph: "She treasured all these things, and pondered them in her heart."

To listen to the Lord, we must learn to contemplate, to perceive His constant presence in our lives; we have to stop and talk to Him, give Him space with prayer.

Every one of us, even you adolescent boys and girls, and young people, so numerous here this morning, should ask yourselves: how much space do I give the Lord? Do I stop to dialogue with Him? Ever since we were little, our parents have accustomed us to begin and end the day with a prayer, to teach us to feel that the friendship and the love of God accompany us. Let us remember the Lord more often in our days!

And in this month of May, I would like to recall the importance and the beauty of the prayer of the Holy Rosary.

Reciting the Hail Mary, we are led to contemplate the mysteries of Jesus, to reflect, that is, on the central moments of his life, so that, as for Mary and for St Joseph, He may be the centre of our thoughts, our attention and our actions.

It would be nice if, especially in this month of May, you would pray together as a family, with your friends, in the parish, the Holy Rosary or some prayer to Jesus and the Virgin Mary! Praying together is a precious moment for making family life and friendship even more stable! Let us learn to pray more in the family and as a family!

Dear brothers and sisters, let us ask St Joseph and the Virgin Mary to teach us to be faithful to our daily commitments, to live our faith in everyday actions and to give more space to the Lord in our lives, to stop to contemplate his face.

Zenit.org 01-05-2013

With Passion and Skill

Pope Francis, in his Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 11 May 2014

Both in married life and in the forms of religious consecration, as well as in priestly life, we must surmount the ways of thinking and acting that do not conform to the will of God. ... We need not be afraid: God follows the work of his hands with passion and skill in every phase of life. He never abandons us! He has the fulfilment of his plan for us at heart, and yet he wishes to achieve it with our consent and cooperation.

IN MEMORIAM

– FR DES BYRNE

Fr Des Byrne, long-time supporter of Into the Deep, has died. May he rest in peace.

Fr Byrne was an inspiration to ITD from its early days, and initially we had a group in Gippsland calling ourselves the Confraternity of St Michael, on the suggestion of Fr Byrne. He came to give a talk to us shortly after ITD was born, giving us advice and encouragement. Read the report of his inspiring talk in the third issue of ITD, December 2002.

Fr Byrne founded the Confraternity of St Michael for the Catechetical Instruction of Young Adults in the Catholic Faith in 1992. He believed that young people will respond with enthusiasm when presented with the great truths of our Catholic faith, and his results proved he was right. Fr Des inspired all to know, live and love the Catholic faith. May God reward him for his faithfulness and courage.

Marian Conference

Diocese of Sale Marian Conference

"Mary, Queen of Priests and the Family"

Saturday 10th May 2014

St Michael's Catholic Church, Traralgon

9am Adoration, Holy Rosary & Confessions

10.30am Guest speaker - Fr Benedict La Volpe OFM Conv.

12 noon Procession and Crowning of Our Lady's Statue & Holy Mass

1pm Lunch

2pm Guest Speaker – Fr Peter Ferwerda

3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

3.15 Close.

Fr Benedict La Volpe is a Conventual Franciscan Friar and has been with the Order since 1995, and ordained to the Priesthood in 2005. After studying at CTC Melbourne, Fr Benedict was sent to Rome for five years where he studied Theology and a Licentiate in Franciscan Spirituality, as well as studies in the Theology of Consecrated Life. Fr Benedict served as Assistant Priest at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville NSW, from 2005-2009 and since 2009 has been Parish Priest of St Joseph's Springvale, also looking after St Mark's Church in Dingley Village.

Fr Peter Ferwerda considered the priesthood in his teen years, but he pushed it aside because of a desire for marriage and became a medical doctor, until he accepted his call many years later after visiting Medjugorje. He is parish priest of St Patrick's, Kerang.

Enquiries, please contact me on 0400 218 417.

Pat Crozier, Traralgon, Vic

Fr Speekman Leaving Sale Diocese

Fr John Speekman is leaving the Diocese of Sale this month, moving to the Wagga Diocese. I asked him a few questions about his move for the benefit of ITD readers:

Q: We have heard that you are leaving the Sale diocese and moving to the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. Is this a transfer that you have requested, or were you asked to leave the diocese?

A: It is a transfer that I myself requested. I am grateful to the Diocese of Sale for giving me permission to go and to Bishop Hanna for accepting my application.

Q: Will you be incardinated in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, or is it a temporary move?

A: There has been no talk of incardination into a new diocese; I will simply be working outside my own diocese as many priests do.

Q: Which parish will you be based in, and do you mind people contacting you there if they wish?

A: Bishop Hanna has indicated he would like me to work in the parish of Howlong but for the foreseeable future I will be supplying where I am needed. My email address is ioannes@netspace.net.au until I have a permanent address and, of course, I welcome any contact.

Q: What do you hope for in this new phase of your life?

A: I look forward to continuing my priestly work in a new diocese and my hope is simply that I can build communion with Christ and his Church wherever I am.

ITD Layout

The article "Addressing The Real Issues" (Dec/Jan ITD, p.7) was wonderful not just for its content, but also for its layout.

The typesetting for ITD is excellent. However, when reading online it is difficult to cope with two columns. Would it be feasible to have (at least) the online version with only one column?

Keep up the good work.

Mike Lovett, Melbourne, Vic

Opinions Please

Could I have other readers' opinion on this please? I find narrower columns easier to read, and keep the wider ones for occasional variety and for longer articles. But I'm happy to change if there are more readers who prefer the wider columns, or at least I could add more wider column articles to each issue, or keep two columns but have articles top and bottom of a page rather than left and right. Please let me know what you prefer, and I'll adjust accordingly.

- Ed.

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr John Speekman for his wisdom, humility, obedience and teaching.

My faith has grown stronger over the last 14 years. The lessons I learned in primary school through the Catechism had all faded in my secondary school years, through my teenage and early adult life. The flame was not entirely out because I always kept my Sunday obligation and went to Confession from time to time.

Through Fr John's teaching in his homilies a sleepy spiritual flame ignited and I was once again reminded of how I should be holding on to the Holy Rosary, reading the Bible, learning the Catholic Church's Catechism and getting a better understanding of Scripture.

Through a very good friend I managed to attend Catechism classes and was able to learn the connections between the Old and New Testaments, the association of the Sacraments of the Catholic Church and the Holy Mass. There is still so much to learn!

Fr John always emphasises keeping the Sacraments we have received through the Church alive in our lives by always practising, by regular Confession, receiving the Eucharist; and he taught the harm of the variations of sin that tears us apart from Christ.

Fr John Speekman has been obedient to the Church's teaching, sticking with Tradition, bringing back the holiness into the Mass, the focus being on Christ, not himself or the congregation. He has shown obedience to his bishop even when times were difficult, and showed humility when it was difficult to understand why decisions had been made by the hierarchy of the Church.

Through these circumstances I have wanted to know more, learn more about the Faith of the Catholic Church. I have discovered there is a major difference between the personal faith I held onto, and the Church's faith – the Church's faith opens our eyes to the wonders of God, His love and mercy, the greatest gift of His Son, Jesus. My faith was all about me, how things affected me; I am so grateful I am off that path. I have to admit, it is an enormous struggle to stay on the right track but having a priest to remind us to step up and keep strong in the spiritual fight and who leads by example is encouraging and hopefully I will get to my destination in the end.

So once again I say thank you Fr John, and I wish you well in your new appointment in Wagga diocese. The parishioners will be very fortunate to have you as their parish priest.

You will always be in my prayers. God bless you Fr John. "Our Lady Queen of the Clergy, pray for them."

Josie Vitale, Morwell, Vic

Media Reports Untrue

The following letter was delivered to Melbourne City Councillors in the lead-up to a court case whereby the Fertility Control Clinic sued the Melbourne City Council for not stopping the Helpers of God's Precious Infants who pray in front of the clinic:

I am concerned about the media reports on the activity of members of the Helpers of God's Precious Infants outside the abortion clinic in Wellington Parade. If these reports were accurate, the behaviour in question should be condemned.

I am a member of this Association, and have often prayed outside the clinic, so I have personal experience of what happens there. Media allegations, and those made by representatives of the clinic, are not merely exaggerated: they are untrue.

Were it otherwise I would have nothing to do with the Helpers.

The procedure is this: the people who go there pray quietly, with one or two of their number approaching pregnant women entering the building and offering support with the pregnancy. This is done in a gentle, sympathetic manner. If the women refuse, their freedom is respected. They are not insulted or bullied.

Over the years several hundred babies have been saved at this clinic, and many mothers are grateful for the help and support they have received. That makes it worthwhile for the Helpers, who have endured insults and misrepresentation – some of them for many years.

As you know, Melbourne City Council staff visit the scene often, and complaints to the Council or the police are followed up. Yet time after time the complaints are found to be baseless.

It is said that if you tell a big enough lie, it will be believed. That observation is borne out by the reaction of some people to complaints about the alleged behaviour of the Helpers. They assume the truth of the charges because it seems implausible that such charges would be made if they were untrue.

But they are untrue, as I know from personal experience. I hope you will judge the matter impartially, and not assume the Helpers are guilty.

John Young, Melbourne, Vic

Defrauding Youth

Pope Francis, 28-02-2014

Jesus invited the young man to follow Him. Sell everything, and then come and follow Me. These words have not lost their timeliness. Young people must hear them from us. They must hear that Jesus is not a character of a novel, but a living person, who wants to share their inalienable desire for life, for commitment, for dedication. If we content ourselves with giving them mere human consolation, we defraud them.

There's Something About Morwell

There is something radically wrong in the Morwell parish. In the past 12 years we have seen the departure of 6 priests. An unenviable record.

Mystery surrounds the latest departure of Fr Darek, a young Polish priest, which raises some questions that need to be answered.

On the Sunday prior to his departure, Father celebrated Holy Mass as usual. There was no hint of anything wrong. I went to Confession to him and he seemed to be his normal self.

In the bulletin of the following week, the reason given for his sudden departure was because of "personal reasons". Is this entirely true?

Who was the author of this notice? It certainly was not Fr Francis, the Parish Administrator. Did the Diocesan Administrator know before Fr Darek that he was leaving? In other words, was he in fact removed and if so, for what reasons?

Was he informed of those reasons and if not, why not? Was he given a chance to defend himself?

If in fact the Diocesan Administrator did remove Father, the notice in the bulletin was not in fact entirely accurate and could be considered untrue.

These questions need to be answered otherwise innuendo and rumour will continue to run rife. We have seen this all too often in the past, starting with the removal of Fr Speekman 12 years ago. Three of the six priests to leave have been young, and their departures sudden and without explanation. Is this coincidence, or is there something about Morwell?

The Morwell parish and the Sale diocese need radical surgery before they completely implode.

Father Darek needs our prayers and support. Pray for him and all those involved in this very serious and sad matter.

One final comment – who or what is the common denominator in the happenings of the past 12 years?

John Henderson, Morwell, Vic

Postage

With the recent increase in postage, costs to send out ITD each month have increased (obviously).

If you are able to receive ITD via email instead of Australia Post, please let us know.

It costs us on average \$15 per year to send out 12 issues. If you are able to send a donation to help cover the increase, please do. If you are able to cover the costs for someone else who can't, we'd appreciate that too.

Thank you for your continued support.

- Ed.

Cesspit of Error

In reading various Catholic blogs and their comments in this country I am becoming increasingly aware of the number of Catholics who, while not understanding the nature and purpose of the Church, have as their goal her destruction.

They have this mistaken notion that the Church exists to express and reflect the views and 'values' of the majority of the 'people of God' rather than the truths of her founder and head, Jesus Christ.

Mired in arrogance and ignorance, this flawed notion of theirs has led to a fixation with numbers. To them large numbers are a measure of success, very much like our Catholic schools.

In their view, the exit from the pews is rooted in the Church's refusal to change, update itself and embrace their liberal agenda. As a result of this refusal, the Church has supposedly become irrelevant and out of touch with the majority of her members and the world. Hence these self-described Catholics extol any news that publicly marks the declining practice of the faith.

Catholica, which is a cyberspace community much like St Mary's in exile in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, is such a blog. These people together with their leader Brian Coyne, delight in the demise of the faith in this country. So depraved are they, that they have seized on sexual abuse stories told to recent enquiries to trash the reputation of Cardinal Pell and the Church and to validate their liberal myths and theories.

These people simply do not believe in original sin, the Gospel and the Church's all important mission to evangelize. Over time this blog has become nothing but a cesspit of error, dissent and outright heresy and there is very little faith, if any, present behind so many of their posts and soporific theories.

Yet, as an internet forum it is used and supported scandalously by bishops, priests and religious – who have license to teach and are dependent on the Church for their livelihood – to propagate their personal heretical ideas.

Disturbingly, there is no evidence that these consecrated men have had any action taken against them for using and supporting this cyber brood of vipers to ruin and trash the Church.

Why so many of the Church's leaders have decided to stick their heads in the sand with regards to dissent, and deny that there is anything severely wrong with liberalism in the Church in this country, is beyond me.

But one thing is for sure, there can be no cure for this disease without first recognizing it as the primary cause of the illness that is currently ravaging the faith. Until this first and necessary step is taken by our leaders, the Church will not be restored to full health again.

Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Vic

Afraid of Death

St Augustine

But every man is afraid of the death of the flesh; few, of the death of the soul.

In regard to the death of the flesh, which must certainly come sometime, all are on their guard against its approach: this is the source of all their labour. Man, destined to die, labours to avert his dying; and yet man, destined to live forever, labours not to cease from sinning.

And when he labours to avoid dying, he labours to no purpose, for its only result will be to put off death for a while, not to escape it; but if he refrain from sinning, his toil will cease, and he shall live forever.

Oh that we could arouse men, and be ourselves aroused along with them, to be as great lovers of the life that abides, as men are of that which passes away!

What will a man not do who is placed under the peril of death? When the sword was overhanging their heads, men have given up every means of living they had in reserve. Who is there that has not made an immediate surrender of all, to escape being slain? And, after all, he has perhaps been slain. Who is there that, to save his life, has not been willing at once to lose his means of living, and prefer a life of beggary to a speedy death?

Who has had it said to him, Be off to sea if you would escape with your life, and has delayed to do so? Who has had it said to him, Set to work if you would preserve your life, and has continued a sluggard?

It is but little that God requires of us, that we may live forever: and we neglect to obey Him. God says not to you, Lose all you have, that you may live a little time oppressed with toil; but, Give to the poor of what you have, that you may live always exempt from labour.

The lovers of this temporal life, which is theirs, neither when, nor as long as they wish, are our accusers; and we accuse not ourselves in turn, so sluggish are we, so lukewarm about obtaining eternal life, which will be ours if we wish it, and will be imperishable when we have it; but this death which we fear, notwithstanding all our reluctance, will yet be ours in possession.

Marlo Retreat

Retreat with Fr Emmanuel Adami: 23-26 May (Friday to Monday).

Payment is by anonymous donation. Everything is provided: home cooking, talks, Holy Mass, rosary, Stations of the Cross walks, beach walks, shrines, adoration, prayer and daily Benediction.

For booking and further information, phone 5154 8419.

Richard Earle, Marlo, Vic

Searching For Good Bishops

Pope Francis, in an address to the Congregation for Bishops, 27-02-2014

This Congregation exists to ensure that the name chosen has first of all been pronounced by the Lord. See the great mission entrusted to the Congregation for Bishops, its most exacting task: to identify those that the Holy Spirit Himself chooses to lead His Church.

Give us a Bishop!

From the lips of the Church will come in every time and in every place the question: give us a Bishop! The Holy People of God continue to speak: we need someone who looks after us from on high; we need someone who looks upon us with the breadth of the heart of God; we do not need a *manager*, a company administrator, and much less one who is at the level of our smallness or little pretensions. We need someone who knows how to raise himself to the height of God's gaze above us to guide us towards Him. Only in God's gaze is there a future for us. ...

I would like to emphasize that renouncement and sacrifice is inherent in the episcopal mission. The Episcopate is not for oneself, it is for the Church, for the flock, for others, especially for those who according to the world should be excluded.

Indispensable Skills

Therefore, to identify a Bishop, it is not necessary to list his human, intellectual, cultural or even pastoral skills. The profile of a Bishop is not the algebraic sum of his virtues. Certainly there is a need for someone who excels; whose human integrity ensures a capacity for healthy, balanced relationships, so as not to project his shortcomings onto others and to become a destabilizing factor; his Christian solidity is essential to promote fraternity and communion; his upright behaviour attests to the lofty measure of the disciples of the Lord; his cultural preparation must enable him to enter into dialogue with men and their cultures; his orthodoxy and faithfulness to the complete Truth held by the Church makes him a pillar and a point of reference; his interior and exterior discipline enables him to be self-possessed and opens room for the welcome and guidance of others; his capacity to govern with paternal firmness ensures confidence in the authority which helps to grow; his transparency and detachment when managing community assets must confer authority and merit the esteem of all.

Witness to Christ

All these indispensable skills must be, however, in support of his central witness to the Risen Christ, and must be subordinate to this central commitment. ...

Since faith comes from proclamation we need... men who are guardians of doctrine, not so as to measure how far the world is from doctrinal truth, but in order to fascinate the world, to enchant it with the beauty of love, with the freedom offered by the Gospel. The Church

does not need apologists for her causes or crusades for her battles, but humble and trusting sowers of the truth, who know that it is always given to them anew and trust in its power; men who are patient because they know that the darnel will never fill the field. ...

A Man of Prayer

Now I will move on to the other trait typical of the Bishop: he must be a man of prayer... A man who does not have the courage to argue with God on behalf of his people cannot be a Bishop ... nor can he who is unable to assume the mission of guiding the people of God to where He, the Lord, indicates.

May Bishops be shepherds, close to the people; fathers and brothers, may they be gentle, patient, merciful; may they love poverty, interior poverty, as freedom for the Lord, and exterior poverty, as well as simplicity and a modest lifestyle; may they not have the mindset of 'princes.' Be careful that they are not ambitious, that they are not in quest of the Episcopate, that they are espoused to the Church, without constantly seeking another; this is called adultery. May they be overseers of the flock that has been entrusted to them, to take care of everything that is needed to keep it united... I wish to emphasize again that the Church needs genuine Pastors. ...

Habitual and Daily Care

Vatican Council II states that the 'pastoral office or the habitual and daily care of their sheep is entrusted' completely to Bishops' (*Lumen Gentium*, 27). We should reflect longer on these two qualifications of the care of the flock: *habitual and daily*. In our times, regularity and the everyday are often associated with routine and boredom. Therefore we often try to escape to a permanent "elsewhere." This is a temptation of Pastors, of all Pastors. ... The flock needs to find a place in the heart of its Pastor. If this is not solidly anchored in himself, in Christ and His Church, the Bishop will continually be at the mercy of the waves, in search of ephemeral compensations, and will offer no shelter to his flock.

Where Will We Find Him?

At the end of these words, I wonder: where can we find such men? It is not easy. Are there any? How should they be selected? I think of the prophet Samuel in search of Saul's successor, who asks the elderly Jesse: "Are all your sons here?" and, hearing that little David was outside in the field grazing the sheep, demands 'Send for him.' We too must search among the fields of the Church for men to present to the Lord, in order that He say: "Arise, anoint him; for this is he!" I am sure that they are there, since the Lord does not abandon his Church. Perhaps we are not seeking well enough in the fields.

Zenit.org 03-03-2014

ITD Blog: Latest News and Comments

*ITD recently started a blog at www.stoneswillshout.com/wp. Visit it regularly during the month to see what updates there are in-between issues of *Into the Deep*. Add your comments to make it interactive and interesting.*

Here are some excerpts from what's been happening on the blog during April (I'll try to do better next month!), and below are two featured comments in response to the blog article "Lay Leadership – a solution unrelated to the problem" which was also published in the April issue of ITD, p.5.

- Ed.

Wilcannia-Forbes has a new bishop: On Saturday, 12 April, the Holy Father appointed Fr. Columba Macbeth-Green, O.S.P.P.E. ... [READ MORE](#)

The difference a day makes: "A US woman accused of killing seven babies she gave birth to over 10 years was arrested Sunday after police discovered the tiny bodies stuffed in separate cardboard boxes in the garage of her former home." ... [READ MORE](#)

Entitled: Babette Francis of Endeavour Forum, writes brilliantly. She has the gift of writing clearly, simply, logically, strongly, and with just the right amount of humour to make entertaining reading of very serious issues. ... [READ MORE](#)

Fighting tetanus, or fighting babies? There's always reason to be suspicious when western 'health initiatives' are given freely to conservative African nations – usually the western understanding of health is all about imposing contraception and abortion rather than actual health. ... [READ MORE](#)

Excluded

We tried to enrol our kids in a Sale Diocese school some years ago, but found that despite having just moved to the area, the school insisted we take our place at the end of a long waiting list. We would not be accepted in time before they were to move into secondary school.

For secondary school the story would be the same, as children from feeder primary schools were able to take preference. The fact that we were Mass-goers, and nearly everyone else on the list or in the school was not, was irrelevant. (Perhaps, I started to think, our Mass-going was a negative). Entry was by way of a baptism certificate.

When we went to Mass, the parish constantly indicated the special place of the school. We felt excluded from the parish as well.

And since then, parish life, in all the other places we have lived, has continued to deteriorate. Families who are trying to raise their children in the faith have been utterly betrayed by the Church's clerical and lay "leadership". Liturgy has been degraded nearly everywhere, no pastoral care or teaching is offered to older children or teenagers. The lay vocation is regarded as inconsequential. Sacramental availability diminishes fast.

A recent Church life survey question asked me whether I was a proper member of the church, i.e. was a paid professional Catholic. As for the migrants, they too will fall away because nothing of real value is offered them either – another major betrayal. Yet the traitors continue to congratulate themselves, indulging in fantasies of a church without any faith.

aster

Truly Frightening

Dr Dixon's report fills me with horror; such unbelievable and incomprehensible doublespeak! Catholicism is in an abysmal state across the nation; indeed in the west generally. To offer this Polyannaish view that Catholic services can somehow thrive without the Catholic Church's vital means to live and evangelise the faith – the Sacraments – shows a depth of ignorance which I find truly frightening.

I would like to point to a real oasis in the desert which is Catholicism today. It is a parish which is attracting increasing numbers of daily and Sunday Mass-goers, increasing numbers of penitents.

There is only one explanation for this burgeoning, lively Catholic life at St Mary Star of the Sea, West Melbourne: The Mass is offered according to the instructions and rubrics of the Roman Missal. There are no fewer than 20 sessions of the Sacrament of Reconciliation offered weekly in the Church. The priests of the Opus Dei prelatore preach for grown-ups who are aware they are little children in their weakness and abilities, but are exhorted to aim higher for holiness. Our parish priest whenever he can, several days a week, leads the Rosary after Mass in front of Our Lady's chapel.

I am not a member of Opus Dei, but a fervent supporter of the prelatore because I have not encountered anything of this standard of liturgy, preaching and pastoral care. Why is it so hard for priests to do things properly? To be obedient and faithful to the precepts of the Church?

We laity must pray harder and offer more sacrifice for our pastors.

Maryse Usher

Courage!

May I commence by telling you a true story which was told to me by a Missionary of Charity priest, Father Adam who was, prior to about 12-15 years ago, a parishioner in his youth, an odd-job man, and a part-time farmer, about which we oldies know so very little.

At evening Masses, at the time, he was prominent that in a subdued way, he became an aid, assistant at those Masses to the Parish Priest of Holy Spirit Church at Manifold Heights, Geelong, where his reverence was evident.

After many years of “finding” his vocation in India with the poor as a Brother, and hence as a Brother in Rome, he prepared for a priestly life. After ordination, he was assigned as a Missionary of Charity, firstly in Tijuana in Mexico.

An experience of building small chapels as a labourer did not prepare him for a visit to a local supermarket in Tijuana where that young priest was confronted with...

“Father, could you please hear my Confession?” (these words came in Spanish), from a young girl employee! The young girl recognised the young priest because he was wearing a clerical collar.

Was it something else other than courage that makes our Father Adam wear a clerical collar?

And was it something else besides courage which made the girl shop assistant ask for Confession to a young priest who was wearing a clerical collar?

Such an incident occurred about 12 – 15 years before Pope Francis at a General Audience on 19-02-20144 (April ITD, p.4) was telling them to

“Be courageous,
and go to Confession!”

John Bohan, Geelong West, Vic

A Little Gospel

Pope Francis, Angelus address, 16-03-2014

Let me ask you a question: do you read a passage from the Gospel every day? ... it is important. It is a good idea to have a small Gospel, a pocket-sized Gospel that you can carry around with you, and to read a short passage from it at any time of the day.

At any time in the day I take the Gospel out of my pocket and read a little something, a short passage. There we find Jesus, who speaks to us, in the Gospel!

Think about this. It is not difficult, and it is not even necessary to have all four of them: we can carry just one of the Gospels, a little copy, with us at all times. Let us always keep the Gospel with us, because it is the Word of Jesus, so that we can listen to Him at all times.

Zenit.org 17-03-2014

A Cow is Not a Horse

Do names matter? The blunt answer is: Yes. We all know what a horse is, but a cow is not a horse; neither is a mule, even though it looks more like a horse than a cow does. Different names tell us important facts about each animal, and what they can – and can't – do.

When it comes to human beings, we also have important names to inform us what they can and can't do. To be married, with its rights and responsibilities, is different from being unmarried, and even the law recognises this. But we are now faced with a well-orchestrated social campaign to change the law, and in the process the nature of marriage, by using the word marriage to apply to homosexual unions.

I understand that there are reasons why a homosexual couple who have committed themselves to each other for a long time might want certain aspects of their lives clarified. If they decide to part, what happens to the property? If one faces terminal illness, who is to make the arrangements? Surely not the family, if there has been longstanding separation or alienation. After death, how is the estate to be managed, and by whom? These are realistic considerations, but of themselves not enough to make marriage.

The homosexual thing is a personal commitment to some form of union, which those involved can decide on or relinquish for themselves. The law may choose to recognise the reality of such a personal union for the civil purposes of health and property management, but as we cannot call a mule a horse, so we cannot call such a merely civil union a marriage.

If a homosexual couple want to live together, nobody is going to stop them. Why then this campaign to alter the law and so destroy the meaning of marriage? Are they seeking something further from society that they know they haven't got? If so, neither we nor the law can ensure that.

They will not attain acceptance by attacking others and the institutions and language of society. Integrity comes from proof, not claims, and there are many on both sides of society who will have to struggle to have their aspirations recognised, since society seems very sick now that it has given away its need for a moral code.

S.C., Melbourne

Remember!

Update your records:

Please use ITD's new email address:
stoneswillshout@bigpond.com
and *not* the old yahoo one anymore.

And remember to have a look at the ITD blog:
www.stoneswillshout.com/wp
and add your comments.

The Source of Our Blessings

From an article by Bishop James Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska, published in the Southern Nebraska Register

For 500 years, Christians have been martyred in China. Since the first Jesuit missionaries arrived in China, Christians have been put to death for proclaiming Jesus Christ. Emperors, nationalists, and communists have persecuted Christianity, often by the sword. Martyrs may one day convert China. But there is one Chinese martyr whose life and death may have already converted millions.

During the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, nationalist forces sought to usurp economic and political control of China from Western powers. Christianity was viewed as a symbol of Western colonialism; so Chinese soldiers were ordered to destroy Catholic churches across the country. They took tabernacles and sacred vessels, and imprisoned Catholic priests. There was one church in the Chinese countryside that was destroyed, while a small girl hid in the back, unnoticed but observant. She watched as the priest was arrested, as the tabernacle was torn away, and as the Sacred Hosts, stored within a ciborium, were strewn across the floor. The girl noticed where the Hosts landed, and noticed that the soldiers never bothered to pick them up.

She went back to her home that afternoon, and told her parents what she had seen. And that night, slipping past guards and police officers, she snuck back into the Church, knelt before the discarded Hosts, and spent an hour in adoration. After she had spent time in prayer, she consumed one of the Hosts, and secretly made her way back home.

Thirty-two hosts had been thrown across the church floor, and for 32 consecutive nights the young girl went back to the Church. Spending time in adoration, one by one, she consumed the Holy Eucharist.

On the last night, after the girl had received the Eucharist, she accidentally woke a sleeping guard, who chased her down and beat her to death. The parish priest, under house arrest but watching from his window, stood by helplessly as the girl became a martyr.

The story of the girl's martyrdom was passed from home to home, and from priest to priest, and eventually it was heard by the young Father Fulton Sheen, the man who would become an archbishop and one of the most effective evangelists in the history of the United States.

When Father Sheen heard the story of this young martyr, he resolved that he would spend an hour in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament every day for the rest of his life, and promote adoration of Christ in the Eucharist. He did so, with radio and television programs that reached millions of American homes.

The graces of that martyr's witness helped bring Christ to millions of Americans. But few had ever heard of her.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can have a profound effect. Adoration can transform cities and nations, and it can transform hearts. But the impact of adoration often goes unnoticed. Humble, quiet, simple prayer, which begins every good work, is often forgotten, or dismissed.

The Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska, is known across the country for its vibrant Catholic life. Everywhere I go, people have heard about our parishes, our priests and seminarians, and about our devout, generous families. But few realize that the successes of the Diocese of Lincoln are a tribute to the power of Eucharistic adoration.

We are blessed, beyond measure, in this diocese, by the prayers of two houses of contemplative nuns, whose very lives are dedicated to the adoration of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. We're also blessed by parishes where adoration is a long-standing custom, and the practice of regular Eucharistic adoration is passed from grandparents, to parents, to children.

However we have been blessed in the Diocese of Lincoln, we have been blessed because of the men and women who commit to spending time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament – especially when Christ is exposed in a monstrance – exposed for our contemplation.

In 1996, Blessed Pope John Paul II wrote that “when we contemplate him present in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar, Christ draws near to us and becomes more intimate to us than we are to ourselves. He grants us a share in his divine life in a transforming union and, in the Spirit, he gives us access to the Father.” Adoration of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament will draw us each into an intimate union with the Most Holy Trinity.

“I keep up the Holy Hour to grow more and more into His likeness” said Archbishop Fulton Sheen. “Looking at the Eucharistic Lord for an hour transforms the heart in a mysterious way as the face of Moses was transformed after his companionship with God on the mountain.”

Zenit.org 18-03-2014

“Every time that we go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we sing a hymn to the patience of God!”

Pope Francis

Purifying the Vessels

Answered by Fr Edward McNamara, professor of liturgy at the Regina Apostolorum university

Q: I am an extraordinary minister of holy Communion. I am not an instituted acolyte. In December we had training in the new procedures for purifying and cleaning chalices, ciboria and other vessels used in Communion... - *F.C., New Jersey*

A: During Mass, the role of extraordinary minister of Communion is to assist the priest and deacon in distributing the Eucharist when this assistance is requisite. No other roles are foreseen for extraordinary ministers during Mass. ...

The purification must be carried out by the deacon or, in his absence, by an instituted acolyte or eventually by the priest himself. ...

Zenit.org 12-02-2008, 26-02-2008

General Instruction of the Roman Missal

279. The sacred vessels are purified by the Priest, the Deacon, or an instituted acolyte after Communion or after Mass, in so far as possible at the credence table.

The purification of the chalice is done with water alone or with wine and water, which is then consumed by whoever does the purification. The paten is wiped clean as usual with the purificator.

Care is to be taken that whatever may remain of the Blood of Christ after the distribution of Communion is consumed immediately and completely at the altar.

280. If a host or any particle should fall, it is to be picked up reverently; and if any of the Precious Blood is spilled, the area where the spill occurred should be washed with water, and this water should then be poured into the sacrarium in the sacristy.

Who Did the Work?

Pope Francis, in his Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 11 May 2014

The Gospel says that 'Jesus went about all the cities and villages... When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest"' (Mt 9:35-38).

These words surprise us, because we all know that it is necessary first to plough, sow and cultivate to then, in due time, reap an abundant harvest. Jesus says instead that "the harvest is plentiful". But who did the work to bring about these results? There is only one answer: God.

Amazing Possibility

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher of the Pontifical Household

We continually need to cross over, in our minds and hearts, from the personage of Jesus to the person of Jesus.

The personage is the one about whom we can speak and write what we wish but to whom and with whom we generally cannot speak. For the majority of believers, unfortunately, Jesus is still a personage, someone we can debate about and write about endlessly, a memory from the past, someone who is linked to a set of doctrines, dogmas, or heresies. He is an objective entity rather than someone who exists. ...

Some exegetes interpret the divine name "I AM" to mean "I am here," I am with you, present, available, here and now.

It is possible to have Jesus as a friend, because since he is risen, he is alive, he is next to me. I can relate to him as one living person to another, as someone present to someone present – not physically or even through the imagination alone, but "through the Spirit" who is infinitely more intimate and real than the body or the imagination. St Paul assures us that it is possible to do everything "with Jesus" whether it be eating or drinking or whatever else we do (see 1 Cor 10:31; Col 3:17).

Unfortunately, Jesus is rarely thought of as a friend and confidant. In our subconscious the image of him as risen, ascended into heaven, remote in his divine transcendence, and returning one day at the end of the world is the image that dominates.

We forget that being "true man," as the dogma says – and even being the very perfection of humanity itself – he possesses the capacity for friendship to the highest degree, which is one of the noblest characteristics of a human being.

It is Jesus who wants that relationship with us. In his farewell discourse, giving full expression to his feelings, he says, "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you". ...

During his earthly life, although Jesus loved everyone without exception, it is only with some – Lazarus, his sisters, and especially John, "the disciple that he loved" – that Jesus has a relationship of true friendship.

Now that he is risen and is no longer subject to the limitations of the body, however, he offers every man and woman the possibility of having him as a friend in the fullest sense of that word. May the Holy Spirit, the friend of the bridegroom, help us welcome with amazement and joy this possibility that can fill our lives.

Zenit.org 04-04-2014

“Pastoralness”

From an interview by ZENIT with Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, Major Penitentiary of the Apostolic Penitentiary

But how [do] justice and mercy go together? What, then, is “pastoralness”?

It is not cancelling the Gospel, doctrine, or the great Tradition of the Church, authentically interpreted by the Magisterium. Above all, pastoralness is not to deceive men leaving them in their condition of sin. I think, instead, that it is profoundly pastoral to “descend” into the wounds of each one’s life, as the Lord did, bringing them the light of the truth. The Church, in fact, is certain that “the Truth renders one free.” Truth always remains the sole true criterion of authenticity for justice, mercy and genuine pastoralness. At bottom we all desire freedom but, without truth, it is but slavery to one’s subjective will, which has nothing to do with the formed and informed conscience of which the Magisterium speaks. ...

If a divorced person comes to confession, who is now living with someone else, is he/she absolved?

If one wishes to listen totally to Jesus’ teaching, one understands that there is no sin that cannot be remitted when the sinner listens to the word of Jesus who said: “neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more.” That “sin no more” is indissolubly linked to the “neither do I condemn you.” The Lord is clear and consequently so is the Catechism of the Church. ...

However, everything could change. Now it’s not possible to ignore public opinion...

Christ is the same yesterday, today and always. Public opinion is quite something else in regard to the common sense of the faith. It is too easily conditioned by the media, by the dominant powers that, in the last century, made it an instrument to impose an ideology. Over two thousand years the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, has always avoided identifying herself with or submitting to any ideology or power. The Church obeys Christ rather than men and cannot do otherwise if she is not to betray herself and give up being *lumen gentium*.

Have you heard about the baptism in Argentina of a baby girl daughter of “two mothers”?

Baptism is never denied to a child! A newborn is always a creature of God, loved by Him and is in any case, innocent. When I was parish Vicar, I often had to receive irregular couples, who asked for Baptism. So I simply asked them at least for the guarantee of openness to a Christian education for their child and also to choose a godmother or godfather who would take care of this. The circumstances, the clamour aroused, are something else, such as the choice of a godmother whose emblematic nature is evident. It is sad that a Sacrament is instrumentalized to such a degree. I think one must pray much for the future of the little one.

Zenit.org 18-04-2014

World Congress of Families Event in Melbourne!

The World Congress of Families is holding a free one-day event in Melbourne, with **keynote speaker His Eminence Cardinal Raymond Burke, Prefect of the Apostolic Signatura**.

The event, called “Life, Family and Freedom” will be held on **Saturday, 30th August 2014** at St Cecilia’s parish Hall, corner of Van Ness Avenue & Hillside Parade, Glen Iris.

The event will start at 9am and conclude at 5.30pm. The full conference program will be available on the ITD blog. Speakers include:

- Warwick and Alison Marsh, Dads4Kids, Fatherhood Foundation: “The Importance of Fathers”.
- The Hon. Bernie Finn, MLC “Marching for the Babies”.
- His Eminence Cardinal Raymond Burke: “Natural Law and Conscience: Key to Freedom and to the Integrity of Marriage and the Family”.
- Dr Angela Lanfranchi, President, Breast Cancer Prevention Institute: “The link between Abortion and Breast Cancer”.
- Christine de Marcellus Vollmer, Latin American Alliance for the Family: “Forming the Human Heart for Wholeness and Peace”.
- Rev. The Hon. Fred Nile, MLC: “God’s creative purpose for planet Earth”
- Paul Hanrahan, Executive Director, Family Life International: “Show me the Money!”
- Most Rev. Bishop Peter Elliott, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne: “Euthanasia – Killing People, Killing Families”
- Dr Larry Jacobs, Managing Director, World Congress of Families, on the pro-life and pro-family policies in the US and Russia.

Admission is free to make it accessible to “ordinary” Mums and Dads who often cannot afford to go to international conferences. However, we would be most grateful for donations to help us cover some of the fares of our international speakers who have generously given their time without fees.

Due to security concerns pre-registration is essential.

Space is limited. To avoid disappointment, register early with:

Conference Secretary: John Brennan, Knights of the Southern Cross jabrennan@omni.net.au, or

Convener: Babette Francis, Endeavour Forum Inc. babette@endeavourforum.org.au, Ph (03) 9822 5218.

Hours of Eucharistic Adoration in Gippsland

Bass	Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Bairnsdale	1 st Friday after 9.10am Mass
Cowwarr-Heyfld	1 st Friday alternately: Cwr 7.30pm–8.30am Heyfield 10am – 4.30pm
Churchill	Saturday (9.30am Mass) 10am – 11am
Cranbourne	Friday and Saturday in the Church: (9.30 Mass) 10am – 11am Adoration Chapel accessible 24 hours by PIN available at parish office.
Drouin	Thursday 10am – 11am First Friday 4pm – 8pm (every second month, December onwards)
Lakes Entrance	Friday 9.30am – 11am
Moe	Wednesday (9am Mass) 9.30am – 10.30am
Morwell	Friday 10am – 6pm (Sacred Heart Church)
Orbost	Wednesday (9.30am Mass) 10am – 11am
Rosedale	First Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Sale	Friday 11.30am – 12.30pm First Friday 11.30am – 4pm
Trafalgar	Wednesday and First Saturday: (9.30am Mass) 10am – 10.45am
Traralgon	Wednesday 11am – 12 noon
Warragul	Saturday 10am – 11am First Friday 4pm – 8pm (every second month, January onwards)
Wonthaggi	First Friday 7pm – 8pm

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

Only One to Hinder Us

St John Chrysostom

For there is not any sin that does not yield and give way to the power of repentance, or rather to the grace of Christ. Since if we would but only change, we have Him to assist us. And if we are desirous to become good, there is none to hinder us; or rather there is one to hinder us, the devil, yet he has no power, so long as we choose what is best, and so attract God to our aid.

Contact *Into the Deep*

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Australia

- Please notify by email if you would like to be added to the regular emailing list.
- There is no subscription fee.
- We rely on donations (cheques made out to John Henderson please).
- Donate to ITD via Ritchies Supermarkets Community Benefit program by nominating Into the Deep with CB number 81799, and shopping at your local Ritchies Supermarket with your Community Benefit Card.

ITD is released on or around the first day of each month by email and on the website; 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

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

- no longer have a voice in Catholic Life, and other diocesan newspapers,
- wish to understand and defend the teachings of the Catholic Church,
- wish to support and defend those who are unjustly treated by Church bureaucrats and organisations,
- wish to campaign for the renewal of our Catholic schools,
- wish to promote Eucharistic adoration in all parishes,
- wish to have a means of support and contact for one another in remaining true to our Catholic faith.

Letters to the Editor

Readers are encouraged to contribute letters or articles. We cannot guarantee that all will be published, and we reserve the right to edit letters. The purpose of sharing letters is to pass on relevant information and suggestions for making positive changes, that is, in line with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We live in joyful hope that the diocese we love can be faithful to the authentic tradition of the Church. As such, Into the Deep aims to be a messenger of hope and not of doom.

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.

Start Anew

Evangelii Gaudium, 3

Now is the time to say to Jesus: "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace". How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost!