

Into the Deep

Issue 97

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

October 2010

Making the Church More Attractive

Answered by Pope Benedict XVI during his flight to the United Kingdom, talking with journalists

Q: “Can anything be done to make the Church a more credible and attractive institution?”

A: “In my view, a Church which seeks above all to be attractive is already on the wrong path, because the Church does not work for herself, she does not work to increase her numbers and her power. The Church is at the service of Another. She serves not herself, not to become strong; rather, she serves to make the announcement of Jesus Christ more accessible: the great truths, the great powers of love and reconciliation which appeared in Him and which always come from the presence of Jesus Christ. ...”

Vatican Information Service 16-09-2010

Hold on Tightly

St Pio of Pietrelcina

“The rosary is the weapon with which to defeat the devil and obtain all graces.”

“This prayer is a synthesis of our faith, the support of our hope, the explosion of our charity.”

“Hold on tightly to the Rosary. Be very grateful to the Madonna because it was she who gave us Jesus.”

“Love our Lady and make her loved; always recite the Rosary and recite it as often as possible.”

Happy Birthday To Us!

ITD turns 8 this month! October 2002 was our first little issue, and here we are now at Issue 97! Who would've guessed we'd get this far!

Thanks to all our readers, supporters and contributors for keeping us going over the years. I think we can safely say that the aim of bringing isolated orthodox Catholics together from around the country has been achieved, and gone well beyond our expectations.

As always, we ask for no subscription fees, but we do ask for donations to contribute towards costs. Thank you to those who regularly donate, and to those who prefer to donate once a year, this is the reminder time, our birthday month. We appreciate all donations and particularly prayers and encouragement – thank you!

The other way you can support ITD is to introduce someone else to ITD. Consider your friends, family, fellow parishioners, and parish priest – give them a copy, or send us their address and we'll invite them to join the mailing list.

With our 100th issue coming up in a few months, we are thinking about having a get-together sometime in January to celebrate that milestone. It's always nice to meet one another face-to-face, and it might even be an occasion for supporters further afield to make the trip to Gippsland to come and say hello.

Let us know what you think – there's a quick survey on inside back page of this issue (p.11) that you can add your comments to. We look forward to hearing from you – and maybe even meeting you! - Ed.

God is generous, and if we look at our lives with sincerity, then we can see that whatever we have given up he has truly repaid a hundred for one. He does not let himself be overtaken by us in generosity. He does not wait for the next life to give us our reward, but he gives us the hundredfold right now, even if this world does remain a world of persecutions, sorrows and sufferings. ... We have only to have the initial courage to be the first to give that 'one', just like Peter who on the word of the Lord pushes out again into the deep in the morning – he gives one and receives a hundred.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Journey Towards Easter, 1987 (p.159)

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

Donate to ITD Without Donating!

ITD has registered with the Ritchies Community Benefit program. This means that if you shop at any of the 56 Ritchies supermarkets throughout Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, you can contribute to ITD while doing your regular grocery shopping – at no extra cost to you!

Sign up at your local Ritchies supermarket for their Community Benefit Card and nominate **Into the Deep** as your group, with the “CB number” of **81799**.

Your Community Benefit Card gives you access to exclusive specials each week – so you benefit. And if enough shoppers nominate ITD as their organisation and the total of all shoppers’ purchases for the month reach \$2000, then ITD receives 0.5% of the money you have spent – so we benefit!

ITD is of course produced entirely through volunteer work, and donations are used solely for printing and postage of each month’s issues.

So all you have to do is register, nominate ITD, and then present your Ritchies Community Benefit Card to the cashier every time you shop there. If we have only *one* shopper nominating ITD at *each* Ritchies supermarket, then each has to spend only \$10 a week (in the supermarket or liquor department) for us to qualify for a donation. What a great way for you to help us out without stretching your own finances! Go on, do it! It can be your birthday present to ITD ☺

If you want more information, go to ritchies.com.au.

- Ed.

Prejudiced Villains

These days, good is often presented not as good, but rather as a prejudice held by a limited religious system such as Catholicism, for example. Evil is no longer perceived as evil in the way our fairly recent ancestors understood it, but is increasingly depicted as a means to achieve ‘good’ – good being understood as what is convenient for us, can make us happy, or may result in ‘more gain, less pain’.

In these modern times, many people present the killing of those who reside in mothers’ wombs not as an evil act but as a humanitarian or caring one because an abortion may, for example, save a child in the womb from a miserable life when it is not wanted.

Those who object to killing defenceless unborn human beings by violent means are portrayed as the real ‘villains’ – as uncaring, as prejudiced, or as religious freaks even though many unbelievers too abhor the killing of their unborn fellow human beings.

Henk Verhoeven, Beacon Hill NSW

To Into the Deep

By Anne Onumos

Salutations! my dear friends
You do a job well done
You forsake the worldly trends
No doubt you stick to your guns.

Think me strange or think me odd
All I write must rhyme
I hope through this I praise our God
Else it’s a waste of time.

At this period my ID
You surely cannot trace
Alas, one day maybe you’ll see
My personage face to face.

I hope you all will understand
The “State” that I am in
Every woman and every man
Are all the “next of kin”!

The news would no doubt spread around
The moment my name’s revealed
Oh that “alien” her mind’s not sound
We wish that her lips be sealed.

They’ll unveil the sins of my past
They’ll smile with so much glee
Through them a first stone would be cast
That would be the end of me.

Tho’ hope my poems do bring some cheer
To those who feel frustrated
With the hierarchy that does not hear
Perhaps they’re inundated.

So many problems Australia has
In every city and town
Look at Brisbane, Morwell and TAS
It certainly makes us all frown.

Too many twerps¹ and twits² and clowns
They just keep on rolling in
Into our cities into our towns
Continue to do their own thing!

All your readers I ask be strong
And pray unceasingly pray
I’m pretty sure it won’t be long
Most problems will go away. Amen.

¹ A silly annoying person

² A silly or foolish person

Something I Very Much Want to Say to You

From the address Pope Benedict XVI delivered on 17-09-2010 during a meeting with 4000 students of Catholic schools at Twickenham, UK. All the Catholic schools of England, Wales and Scotland followed the event via Internet.

It is not often that a Pope, or indeed anyone else, has the opportunity to speak to the students of all the Catholic schools of England, Wales and Scotland at the same time. And since I have the chance now, there is something I very much want to say to you.

I hope that among those of you listening to me today there are some of the future saints of the twenty-first century. What God wants most of all for each one of you is that you should become holy. He loves you much more than you could ever begin to imagine, and he wants the very best for you. And by far the best thing for you is to grow in holiness.

Perhaps some of you have never thought about this before. Perhaps some of you think being a saint is not for you. Let me explain what I mean.

When we are young, we can usually think of people that we look up to, people we admire, people we want to be like. It could be someone we meet in our daily lives that we hold in great esteem. Or it could be someone famous. We live in a celebrity culture, and young people are often encouraged to model themselves on figures from the world of sport or entertainment. My question for you is this: what are the qualities you see in others that you would most like to have yourselves? What kind of person would you really like to be?

When I invite you to become saints, I am asking you not to be content with second best. I am asking you not to pursue one limited goal and ignore all the others. Having money makes it possible to be generous and to do good in the world, but on its own, it is not enough to make us happy. Being highly skilled in some activity or profession is good, but it will not satisfy us unless we aim for something greater still. It might make us famous, but it will not make us happy.

Happiness is something we all want, but one of the great tragedies in this world is that so many people never find it, because they look for it in the wrong places. The key to it is very simple – true happiness is to be found in God. We need to have the courage to place our deepest hopes in God alone, not in money, in a career, in worldly success, or in our relationships with others, but in God. Only he can satisfy the deepest needs of our hearts.

Not only does God love us with a depth and an intensity that we can scarcely begin to comprehend, but he invites us to respond to that love. You all know what it is like when you meet someone interesting and attractive, and you want to be that person's friend. You always hope they will find you interesting and attractive, and want to be your friend. God wants your friendship. And once you enter into friendship with God, everything in your life begins to change. As you come to know him better, you find you want to reflect something of his infinite goodness in your own life. You are attracted to the practice of virtue. You begin to see greed and selfishness and all the other sins for what they really are, destructive and dangerous tendencies that cause deep suffering and do great damage, and you want to avoid falling into that trap yourselves. You begin to feel compassion for people in difficulties and you are eager to do something to help them. You want to come to the aid of the poor and the hungry, you want to comfort the sorrowful, you want to be kind and generous. And once these things begin to matter to you, you are well on the way to becoming saints.

In your Catholic schools, there is always a bigger picture over and above the individual subjects you study, the different skills you learn. All the work you do is placed in the context of growing in friendship with God, and all that flows from that friendship. So you learn not just to be good students, but good citizens, good people.

As you move higher up the school, you have to make choices regarding the subjects you study, you begin to specialize with a view to what you are going to do later on in life. That is right and proper.

But always remember that every subject you study is part of a bigger picture. Never allow yourselves to become narrow. The world needs good scientists, but a scientific outlook becomes dangerously narrow if it ignores the religious or ethical dimension of life, just as religion becomes narrow if it rejects the legitimate contribution of science to our understanding of the world. We need good historians and philosophers and economists, but if the account they give of human life within their particular field is too narrowly focused, they can lead us seriously astray.

A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints. [...]

Dear friends, I thank you for your attention, I promise to pray for you, and I ask you to pray for me. I hope to see many of you next August, at the World Youth Day in Madrid. In the meantime, may God bless you all!

www.zenit.org 17-09-2010

Request for Clarification

Recently a parishioner gave me a copy of an article from your August newsletter/magazine (p.7). The article was titled "Revolting Bishops and Priests" and was written by Gregory Kingman.

Both the parishioner and I found the article sad, upsetting and, in parts, a little puzzling. To assist, I wondered if you might ask Mr Kingman to clarify/amplify a couple of statements he made in his article.

The statements I would appreciate you clarifying/amplifying, as indicated, are:

"The members of the NCP have been working away for years at establishing a parallel Australian church..." How have they been doing this? What does "parallel Australian church" mean?

"...all things...are done the Australian way." What does this mean in relation to the three areas you mention, ecclesial, pastoral and ministerial?

"These priests demonstrate their love for her by... carrying out their ministry, in accordance with her discipline, laws and norms, especially when they offer up the Mass." Could you provide specific examples, especially in relation to the Mass, because we found this last statement particularly upsetting and difficult to follow.

I look forward to Mr Kingman's responses so that hopefully both our minds can be set at rest.

I should point out that I am one of the priests in this parishioner's parish and that I hold membership, though perhaps not on a very active basis, of both the NCP and ACCC. As a priest in my early years of priesthood in a rural area, one looks to such bodies for some support.

Name supplied

[See opposite for Gregory Kingman's response. - Ed]

Bumper Sticker For Life:

Every unborn baby deserves a birthday.

Nothing to Give to Him

Pope Benedict XVI, on the parable of those who seek the places of honor at a wedding banquet, 29-08-2010

The Lord brings us to understand that in reality we still live according to the style of the pagans: We invite reciprocally only those who will return the invitation; we give only if we will get back.

The style of God is different. He invites us to his table, we who are lame, blind and deaf; he invites us who have nothing to give him.

Clarification Offered

[Response to Request for Clarification opposite. - Ed.]

Firstly, with regards to the statement, "The members of the NCP have been working ... at establishing a parallel Australian church", I must confess that the first two words create an unfair generalization. I should have said "there are members..." – I am sorry. However, the sentiments expressed by you and the parishioner are more or less the same as mine were when I subsequently read more detail about the conference in the NCP magazine, the Swag, which was even more disturbing than my original article portrayed (I have written another article to elaborate on this).

By 'parallel church' I refer to the situation when bishops and priests, instead of serving the Church faithfully, use their authority and privileged position to create a 'church' in accordance with their own vision of what better 'suits' the 'unique' Australian culture and conditions. It has been going on for over 20 years. Michael Gilchrist, editor of AD2000, has written two books: "New Church or True Church" (1987) and "Lost" (2006), that document how the liberals targeted the priesthood, the liturgy and Catholic doctrines and morals in order to change the Church and create their 'new church'. I highly recommend them as certainly worth reading.

The agenda of the liberals can be implemented through a diocese's pastoral plan, seminaries and formation centres, policies relating to the sacraments of initiation, through RCIA programs, schools and catechetical programs. I have witnessed this first-hand as religious education teacher and later as a pastoral associate. But by far the most effective way in which it has been done has been through deformities of the sacraments and liturgical abuses.

With regards to the 'Australian way' (as opposed to the Church's way): ecclesially, I mean rather than accepting the hierarchical Church, they promote an understanding of church as a faith community of equal mateship in which everyone is a leader and a minister; pastorally, an example is instead of feeding the faithful on Word and Sacrament and the truths of the faith as contained in the Catechism, they feed the faithful what they consider more 'culturally meaningful'; ministerially, rather than imitate Christ, priests are encouraged to express their personality through their ministry and to live the sacrament of Holy Orders in accordance with their own desires, wishes and vision.

The third quote you refer to related to orthodox priests (such as ACCC members, generally). These are priests who dress like priests, uphold (and teach) Church teaching and pray the Mass as the Church prescribes, avoiding liturgical abuses. That is, they "say the black and do the red" at Mass.

Gregory Kingman, Morwell

True Understanding is Required Again

If Eamonn Keane is right (ITD September, p.2) about Thomas Groome and Fr Robert Drinan, then somebody has made a bad blue.

As children we all knew that Protestants were bible readers, but we went to Mass. That is why Protestant churches have traditionally made a big thing of the pulpit for preaching the word or the organ for support of their singing. Catholic churches, however, have always been centred on the altar of sacrifice and the tabernacle, because of the importance of the sacraments in our Tradition.

Are the word and sacraments opposed? Not really, but it depends on a true understanding. *One of the great heresies of the Reformation is that Scripture is superior to the Church.* True understanding is required again. Protestantism somehow imagines that the Church grew out of the Scriptures, but the very opposite is *the truth – the Church gave birth to Scripture!*

To understand such a simple truth one only has to ask which came first: Church or Scripture? Jesus contained all that is essentially the Church, human and divine, in himself personally, long before the first word of the New Testament was ever written.

After his death and resurrection it was the memory of his teaching by the apostles that led the early Church. Now neither Groome nor Drinan would deny these facts of history, but this *guidance by the apostles is what we call Tradition, and it predates the first written words of New Testament Scripture by about 30 years!*

This is the great Reformation heresy that so many assume today, whereas true Catholic doctrine is about the role of the living Tradition of the Church and Scripture together, which we call Revelation. This is the important truth which Groome and Drinan have overlooked, when they agree with this character Osborne (whoever he is) that “scholars find no basis for such an interpretation”. How could they? It is in the lived Tradition of belief of the Church.

Then they go on to say: “In other words, Jesus did not ordain the apostles ... priests”. What a terrible jump of logic; *the presumption is that if it's not in Scripture it is illegitimate or doesn't exist.* This makes no allowance for what Jesus *personally* passed on to his successors to establish the infant Church, and it is the life of the Church that is all important, then and now, not the opinions of individuals.

That is why as children it was impressed upon us that the private interpretation of Scripture, a well known tenet of Protestantism, was not Catholic because it was misleading. It overlooks that very obvious truth even stated in Scripture itself: “There are many other things that are not written down, but these things are written so that you may believe...” says St John (20:30,31).

Even the very last verses of his gospel tell us, in another way, of how much Jesus did and taught that is not recorded. How can Groome and his ilk have missed this very obvious truth, even stated in the very place he wants to assert is superior to the Tradition of the Church? Another agenda, I imagine.

So Gregory Kingman can truthfully say (same issue of ITD, p.5): “The Eucharist is the principal and central reason for the existence of the priesthood”; and further, “The Scriptures and the wisdom of Tradition teach us...”; so, “We cannot afford to be indifferent about what is happening”.

Parish life is the ‘coal face’ of Church life. It is there that people experience the Church, and that is why true vigilance is necessary, because we are “intricately tied up with the spiritual lives of our ... parish priests.” The legitimate criticism of the mentality behind the antics of what went on at the recent National Council of Priests conference must spell the end of any credibility and respectability for that rabble.

While ITD can share the concern of the Geelong reader confronted by the looney capers reported by Fr Richard Leonard SJ (ITD p.8), we might ask *where* is this tabernacle with a glass door? Perhaps the Archbishop would like to know, since in these matters he has power and responsibility over the practices of religious orders, even exempt ones!

At least Fr Leonard reports that some religious, whatever their way-out commitments, still believe in Eucharistic adoration in some way or other, because it might be a good thing. Why then do so many priests and religious often oppose it or neglect it? Are they just lazy, or don't they believe any more? Whatever the case, they are taking their (our) money under false pretences.

S.C., Melbourne

Program of Life for Bishops

www.zenit.org 13-09-2010

The Pope reflected today on the role and duties of bishops upon addressing a group of recently appointed prelates who are taking part in a seminar organized by the Congregation for Bishops. ...

Benedict XVI recalled an expression of St Thomas Aquinas which, in his judgment, can constitute “a true and proper program of life for every bishop.”

Commenting on the phrase of Jesus recorded in John's Gospel - “the Good Shepherd gives his life for his sheep” - St Thomas observed: “He consecrates to them his person in the exercise of authority and charity. Two things are called for: that they obey him and that he love them. In fact, the first without the second is not sufficient.”

Advice From St Hildegard

Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, 08-09-2010

The popularity with which Hildegard was surrounded moved many persons to seek her counsel. Because of this, we have available to us many of her letters. Masculine and feminine monastic communities, bishops and abbots turned to her. Many of her answers are valid also for us.

For example, to a women's religious community, Hildegard wrote thus: "The spiritual life must be taken care of with much dedication. In the beginning the effort is bitter. Because it calls for the renunciation of fancies, the pleasure of the flesh and other similar things. But if it allows itself to be fascinated by holiness, a holy soul will find sweet and lovable its very contempt for the world. It is only necessary to intelligently pay attention so that the soul does not shrivel". [...]

With the spiritual authority with which she was gifted, in the last years of her life Hildegard began to travel, despite her advanced age and the difficult conditions of the journeys, to talk of God to the people. All listened to her eagerly, even when she took a severe tone: They considered her a messenger sent by God. Above all she called monastic communities and the clergy to a life in keeping with their vocation.

In a particular way, Hildegard opposed the movement of German Cathars. They – Cathar literally means "pure" – advocated a radical reform of the Church, above all to combat the abuses of the clergy. She reproved them harshly for wishing to subvert the very nature of the Church, reminding them that a true renewal of the ecclesial community is not achieved so much with a change of structures, but by a sincere spirit of penance and an active path of conversion. This is a message that we must never forget.

Let us always invoke the Holy Spirit, so that he will raise up in the Church holy and courageous women, like St Hildegard of Bingen, who, valuing the gifts received from God, will make their precious and specific contribution to the spiritual growth of our communities and of the Church in our time.

[Translation by ZENIT] www.zenit.org 08-09-2010

Bring Back the Compass

Pope Benedict XVI, 10-11-2009

If our fundamental relationship with God is not living, if it is not lived, then none of our other relationships can take their correct form. ...

If we do without God, if God is absent, we lack the compass...to show us the path, the direction we must follow. God! We must bring the truth of God back into the world, make Him known, make Him present.

Priests Victimised

I should like Fr Speekman to know that he is not the only priest to be victimised by a bishop.

Some years ago Bishop Brennan demanded my resignation as the parish priest of Ganmain on the grounds that I had molested a little girl in his presence. The mother of the girl was beside the girl all the time so I approached the mother and asked her opinion of the situation. She promptly put in writing that I did not molest her daughter.

Now to more recent developments in our diocese. The principal of the Catholic school at Urana accused the parish priest of *harassment*. Our courageous bishop asked the parish priest to keep out of the school and grounds, which he did.

The bishop visited the parish for confirmation at the end of last year. After the Mass there was a cup of tea for all but the bishop ordered the parish priest to return to the presbytery. The cup of tea was not for him.

Early this year the bishop issued instructions for parish priests with regard to Catholic schools. In that he stated that should there be a dispute between the parish priest and principal – then the principal must go. So far so good.

For the first two terms the principal was away – she said she was on long-service leave. The bishop informed the parish priest that she was on sick leave.

As they say that in battle the first casualty is the truth.

At the beginning of the third term the bishop then visits the parish priest. His first effort is to bribe the parish priest. Not 30 pieces of silver but a free 3-month trip to Ireland. Not accepted. Next move was to ask the parish priest to resign (there are about 9 vacant parishes). Resignation not acceptable. The parish priest accepted a move to the other side of the diocese.

Here we see very clearly the hypocrisy of the bishop. He says one thing but does the opposite.

Perhaps a little light humour is the best solution: In England there were 3 brothers, two of whom became priests. In time, knowing the right men in the right places, they duly became bishops. The third brother was the local scallywag. Now one Christmas they all agreed to return to the old home. Christmas eve the episcopal brothers were in bed and rose at a reasonable time, came downstairs, kindled the fire and reported to each other of their dream of visiting heaven. Wonderful. Finally the scallywag stumbled downstairs and joined them. He had heard the end of their dreams. He too had a dream but his dream took him to hell. His episcopal brothers were interested – what was it like? Just like home, was his reply – couldn't get near the fire for bishops.

Fr J. Conway, Lockhart, NSW

Letter to High School Principals

The following letter has been sent to all senior Catholic schools in the Melbourne and Sale dioceses. We pray that many schools will participate after the school holidays. Parents who read this letter via ITD may encourage their children, who are in Year 10, 11 or 12 for their teachers to help organise their minibus to go to the abortion mill to pray and witness peacefully! That would be a real blessing!

Dear Principal,

Recalling the fantastic support of World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008, I would like to ask you to embrace another extremely important campaign, to encourage Year 10, 11, 12 students to become informed young adults with high ethical values.

The following facts about teen abortion risks may be stressed:

- Teens are 6 times more likely to attempt suicide if they have had an abortion in the last six months than are teens who have not had an abortion.
- Teens who abort are up to 4 times more likely to commit suicide than adults who abort, and a history of abortion is likely to be associated with adolescent suicidal thinking.
- Teens who abort are more likely to develop psychological problems, and are nearly three times more likely to be admitted to mental health hospitals than teens in general.
- Teens who abort are twice as likely as their peers to abuse alcohol, marijuana, or cocaine.
- Teens are more likely to abort because of pressure from their parents or partner, more likely to report being misinformed in pre-abortion counselling, and more likely to have greater difficulty coping after abortion.

(<http://theunchoice.com/teens.htm>)

Certain truths regarding the affects of abortion on mothers and families and the exploitation of the secular society on the morals and values of youth today ought to be discussed also.

Everyone has the right to say NO to unwanted sex. Young men must be taught to realize that a very heavy price is paid if they engage in pre-marital sex. That price is, simply stated, after the break-up of the first relationship and the starting of a second they will start to treat women as mere objects to satisfy their “appetite”. Their ability to love the whole person is greatly diminished. It just becomes a “selfish” love.

For these reasons I would ask you to strongly encourage students to become prayerful witnesses for life at the abortion clinic at **118 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne**, at any stage during the **40 Days for Life campaign**. This can be done as a school or individually by registering on our website at www.40daysforlife.com/melbourne.

This would be an absolutely marvellous opportunity for each and every student to realize that there are very serious consequences attached to recreational sex.

Hopefully, many schools will accept this call to commit to a time of prayer outside the abortion clinic. A personal written response from the students afterwards to express their feelings would be extremely valuable. What an unforgettable experience for these teenagers on the brink of adulthood! One that may encourage them to pursue Christian life choices.

We realize that you have the best interests of your students at heart so we anticipate that you would endorse this valuable lesson.

Fons Janssen, 40 Days for Life, Campaign Director
Please contact Trudi at tarashi@bigpond.com.au
or myself at fonsforlife@skymesh.com.au

This internationally coordinated 40 Days for Life is happening from September 22 - October 31.

A record 238 locations in the US, Canada, Australia, England, Northern Ireland and Denmark are participating.

When Your Feet Hurt and Your Back Begins to Ache

From a U.S. pro-lifer: 40 Days for Life is upon us and sometimes it's hard to muster the courage and energy to confront the dark cloud of abortion ... [Below is an email sent to me], intended for everyone who stands in the rain and in the hot sun and suffers the slings and arrows of those who wish to persecute the innocent. So when your feet start to hurt and your back begins to ache just remember baby Londyn is alive today because a group of people overcame their fears, anxieties, and personal plans to help others.

“Hello Mr Lopez, I remember speaking with you that day. I'm not sure why I was so inclined to stop and speak to you but remember feeling like I needed to tell someone my story, someone who changed my thought process when I was trying to decide whether or not I should carry my child to term. I cannot thank you and others like you enough for standing up for what you believe in, because had it not been for you all I may have made a horrible decision and terminated my pregnancy. Londyn is my entire world, and everything I do now is so that I can create a better life for her. Please, do not stop doing what you are doing. I know it may seem like your messages are falling on deaf ears and blind eyes, but I can assure you that me and my daughter are proof of the power that you all have. Best wishes, Kelly.”

World Mission Day

*Extracts from Pope Benedict XVI's Message for
World Mission Day 2010, 24 October*

“The month of October, with the celebration of World Mission Day, offers diocesan and parish communities, institutes of consecrated life, ecclesial movements, and the entire People of God an opportunity to renew their commitment to announcing the Gospel and to giving their pastoral activities a greater missionary scope”.

“A mature faith capable of entrusting itself entirely to God with filial devotion, nourished by prayer, meditation on the Word of God and the study of the truths of faith, is a necessary premise for the promotion of a new humanism founded on the Gospel of Jesus”.

“In a multi-ethnic society which is experiencing new and worrying forms of solitude and indifference, Christians must learn to offer signs of hope, to become a universal brotherhood, cultivating the great ideals that transform history and, without false illusions or misplaced fears, undertake to make the planet a home for everyone”.

“Ecclesial communion is born of the encounter with the Son of God, Jesus Christ. ... The Church becomes ‘communion’ on the basis of the Eucharist in which Christ, present in the bread and wine, through His sacrifice of love builds the Church as His body, uniting us both with the Triune God and among ourselves”.

“Thus I renew my invitation to everyone to pray and, despite the economic difficulties, to commit themselves to offering fraternal and concrete help in support of the young Churches. This gesture of love and sharing, which will be distributed thanks to the valuable efforts of the Pontifical Missionary Works (to whom I express my gratitude), will go to support the formation of priests, seminarians and catechists in the most distant mission lands, and to encourage the young ecclesial communities.

“In concluding this annual Message I want, with particular affection, to express my recognition to the male and female missionaries who bear witness in the most far-flung and difficult places, often with their lives, to the coming of the Kingdom of the Lord”.

Vatican Information Service 24-03-2010

He Knows What He's Doing

Blessed John Henry Newman

“Therefore, I will trust Him. ... If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. ... He does nothing in vain. ... He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide the future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.”

Football Crowds at Mass

In early August I attended a First Holy Communion Mass at St Kevin's Parish, Hampton Park. Some children were invited to flank the celebrant on both sides of the altar during the Offertory. At least none of these “instant concelebrants” held up the paten and chalice. Over many years I've sometimes seen these occurrences in other parishes.

During the Consecration, the celebrant, who appeared to be quite able during the whole Mass, did not genuflect after raising the Sacred Host and Precious Blood for adoration, but made a slight bow.

For the distribution of Holy Communion to the general congregation, more than the required number of extraordinary ministers were scattered throughout the church.

Straight after Mass the church erupted into a “social club” and a “photographic studio”. It was almost impossible to meditate after receiving Our Lord into my heart a short time before. Kneeling before the Divine Mercy image was awkward as a group of children and adults blocked my way, facing a line of digital cameras amid chatter and calls for smiles and attention. One could easily have felt in a football crowd.

We need to pray constantly for our priests, particularly those who are not in harmony with the teaching mind and heart of the Catholic Church Magisterium – in other words, the mind and heart of Jesus.

Peter Phillips, Springvale, Vic

Football Songs at Funerals

Thank you to Archbishop Denis Hart (Melbourne) for reminding us what Catholic funerals are all about. He doesn't make anything up in his new archdiocesan guidelines, he just reminds us of the truth of Catholic funerals. Simple statements of fact.

But the way the media – including priests like Fr Bob Maguire – carry on, you'd think he was inventing some mad, unrelated and irrelevant ritual to replace Catholic funerals. All he's doing is teaching us – like all bishops should – what the Church teaches, and reminding us that we are obliged to practise what the Church teaches.

If we took the time to try to *understand* what the Church teaches, things would make a whole lot more sense. But it's so much easier to all moan loudly together, “But we like the way WE are used to doing it!”

A Herald Sun newspaper poll indicated that 83% of the 685 voters agreed that “the Catholic Church has gone too far by banning footy club songs at funerals”. Well, there you go – the people have spoken. Surely Rome will take notice now and change the meaning of a Catholic funeral.

- Ed.

Opportunities of Old Age

From an address by Pope Benedict XVI at the St Peter's Residence for the elderly in London, 18-09-2010

As advances in medicine and other factors lead to increased longevity, it is important to recognize the presence of growing numbers of older people as a blessing for society. Every generation can learn from the experience and wisdom of the generation that preceded it. Indeed the provision of care for the elderly should be considered not so much an act of generosity as the repayment of a debt of gratitude.

... God wills a proper respect for the dignity and worth, the health and well-being of the elderly...

At the very start of my pontificate I said, "Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary". Life is a unique gift, at every stage from conception until natural death, and it is God's alone to give and to take.

One may enjoy good health in old age; but equally Christians should not be afraid to share in the suffering of Christ, if God wills that we struggle with infirmity.

My predecessor, the late Pope John Paul, suffered very publicly during the last years of his life. It was clear to all of us that he did so in union with the sufferings of our Saviour. His cheerfulness and forbearance as he faced his final days were a remarkable and moving example to all of us who have to carry the burden of advancing years.

In this sense, I come among you not only as a father, but also as a brother who knows well the joys and the struggles that come with age.

Our long years of life afford us the opportunity to appreciate both the beauty of God's greatest gift to us, the gift of life, as well as the fragility of the human spirit. Those of us who live many years are given a marvellous chance to deepen our awareness of the mystery of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. As the normal span of our lives increases, our physical capacities are often diminished; and yet these times may well be among the most spiritually fruitful years of our lives.

These years are an opportunity to remember in affectionate prayer all those whom we have cherished in this life, and to place all that we have personally been and done before the mercy and tenderness of God. This will surely be a great spiritual comfort and enable us to discover anew his love and goodness all the days of our life.

With these sentiments, dear brothers and sisters, I am pleased to assure you of my prayers for you all, and I ask for your prayers for me. May our blessed Lady and her spouse Saint Joseph intercede for our happiness in this life and obtain for us the blessing of a serene passage to the next.

www.zenit.org 18-09-2010

Is Catholic Education Worth the Money?

The Reverend Father Saint John Mary Vianney [1786] – the Cure of Ars – chosen by Pope Benedict XVI as the model priest for the celebration of the Year for Priests, once said, "My children, I often think that most of the Christians who are lost are lost for the want of instruction; they do not know their religion well." The same is true of today and no one seems to care that very much.

A good parish priest was dismissed by his bishop in his attempts to uphold the teaching of the church. The bishop ruled in favour of the teacher that complained of his stance and in favour of the regional Catholic Education Office. The priest is still exiled from his parish.

The Nuns and Brothers have abandoned their aim to teach the faith in the classroom. The Catholic Education Office in its efforts to train Catholic children in the teaching of the Holy Catholic faith of our fathers has failed miserably. Is the Catholic Education system worthy of the expenditure?

In a recent election a majority of those students educated by the system voted in favour of a policy that promoted abortion, euthanasia, same-sex 'marriage' and active homosexuality under the guise of greener trees; and the numbers are growing.

Well should we recite the Creed - I believe in God, in the Holy Catholic Church; and the renewal of our Baptismal promises - to reject Satan and his empty promises!

Parents have the right to make sure that their children receive proper religious instruction, and it is their duty to guide them by their example, to practise the faith handed down to them.

Leo Morrissey, Sandringham, Vic

Why No Exposition?

Almost ever since ITD was first published it has printed the names of the towns in our diocese which have at least some Eucharistic Adoration, even though there are sadly very few parishioners who actually attend in most churches.

Could someone please tell me why apparently more than half of our churches have no exposition at all? More importantly, why is it that some of our biggest parishes in the west like Narre Warren, Pakenham and Berwick appear to have nothing too?

If we are serious about wanting more vocations to the priesthood why is silent prayer before the Real Presence of Our Lord not promoted when there have been countless examples that this is a sure way of getting vocations?

Richard Earle, Marlo

Say Your Rosary Every Day

St Louis Marie de Montfort, Secret of the Rosary

Never will anyone really be able to understand the marvelous riches of sanctification which are contained in the prayers and mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

This meditation on the mysteries of the life and death of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the source of the most wonderful fruits for those who use it.

Today people want things that strike and move and that leave deep impressions on the soul. Nor has there ever been anything in the whole history of the world more moving than the wonderful story of the life, death and glory of Our Savior which is contained in the Holy Rosary. In the fifteen tableaux the chief scenes or mysteries of His life unfold before our eyes.

How could there ever be any prayers more wonderful and sublime than the Lord's Prayer and the Salutation of the angel? All our desires and all our needs are found expressed in these two prayers.

The meditation on the mysteries and the prayers of the Rosary is the easiest of all prayers, because the diversity of the virtues of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the different stages of His life which we study refresh and fortify our mind in a wonderful way and help us to avoid distractions.

For learned people these mysteries are the source of the most profound doctrine but simple people find in them a means of instruction well within their reach. [...]

Believe me, dear brothers... if you genuinely wish to reach a high level of prayer in all honesty and without falling into the traps that the devil sets for those who pray, say your whole Rosary every day, or at least five decades of it.

If, by the grace of God, you have already reached a high level of prayer, keep up the practice of saying the Holy Rosary if you wish to remain in that state and if you hope, through it, to grow in humility. For never will anyone who says his Rosary every day become a formal heretic or be led astray by the devil. This is a statement that I would gladly sign with my blood.

Yokes That Don't Chafe

Following the short item on the "advantages" of suffering by Sister Mary Prema M.C. in the September issue of ITD (p.9), may I be permitted to make a comment about these special "yokes" that the good God gives to each one of us.

Christ has told us in St Matthew Ch.11 v.30: "My yoke is easy and my burden light". The Greek word for easy means "well-fitting". I remember when I was young on the farm in Ireland before tractors were in common usage, we had yokes (collars) in the stables for the horses. Each horse had its own collar. If we put the black mare's collar on the grey horse it would have hurt him, it would have chafed him so much he would have bled. So we made sure we gave each horse its own individual collar.

In Palestine at the time of Our Lord, the yokes were made of wood. Each yoke was individually made for the animals. The farmer would initially take the ox to the carpenter for its measurements to be taken. The animal then returned home but in the meantime the carpenter (or craftsman) roughed out the yoke. At the agreed time the animal returned to the carpenter for the final fitting when any necessary adjustments were made to ensure that the yoke was well fitting. It was important that the yoke did not chafe the animal's neck. The yoke was tailor-made for the ox.

There is a legend that goes that Christ who is described in the gospels as a craftsman (teckton) made the best ox-yokes in all of Galilee. Joseph was dead and Christ had to work for a living. The farmers used to come from all over the region to him in Nazareth so that He could fit out their animals. Like all carpenters of the time He had a small shop and over the door He had a sign which read: "My yokes fit best".

It is worth remembering the words of St Francis de Sales: "Either God will shield you from suffering, or God will give you unfailing strength to bear it".

May I make a special plea to all your sick and house bound readers to offer up one hour of their daily suffering for a priest – never waste suffering!

Pat Ryan, London UK

Out of the Shadows and Into the Truth

From a reflection on Blessed John Henry Newman by Father Thomas Rosica, CSB. www.zenit.org 14-09-2010

Newman was a masterful poet. "Lead kindly light amid the encircling gloom, lead Thou me on," Newman wrote in "The Pillar of the Cloud"; and for him Christ was the light at the heart of every kind of darkness.

He was also a profound and penetrating preacher. One passage from a sermon he preached in 1834, more than a decade before he entered the Roman Catholic Church, often provided great comfort for the bereaved: "May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done! Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last." ...

Cardinal Newman died at the age of 89 at the Oratory House in Edgbaston on August 11, 1890. For his tomb he chose the inscription: "Ex umbris et imaginibus in veritatem," (Out of shadows and images into the fullness of truth). Christ was the truth he had found at the end of his life's journey.

No Longer Business As Usual

*From an address by Pope Benedict XVI, 18-09-2010,
eve of the beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman*

One of the Cardinal's best-loved meditations includes the words, "God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another" (Meditations on Christian Doctrine).

Here we see Newman's fine Christian realism, the point at which faith and life inevitably intersect. Faith is meant to bear fruit in the transformation of our world through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the lives and activity of believers.

No one who looks realistically at our world today could think that Christians can afford to go on with business as usual, ignoring the profound crisis of faith which has overtaken our society, or simply trusting that the patrimony of values handed down by the Christian centuries will continue to inspire and shape the future of our society.

We know that in times of crisis and upheaval God has raised up great saints and prophets for the renewal of the Church and Christian society; we trust in his providence and we pray for his continued guidance.

But each of us, in accordance with his or her state of life, is called to work for the advancement of God's Kingdom by imbuing temporal life with the values of the Gospel.

Each of us has a mission, each of us is called to change the world, to work for a culture of life, a culture forged by love and respect for the dignity of each human person.

As our Lord tells us in the Gospel, our light must shine in the sight of all, so that, seeing our good works, they may give praise to our heavenly Father (cf. Mt 5:16).

www.zenit.org 18-09-2010

Justice and Peace

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus address 07-12-2008

Justice and peace, in fact, are God's gift, but they require men and women who are "good soil," ready to receive the good seed of his Word.

Jesus is the first fruit of this new humanity, the Son of God and the Son of Mary. She, the Virgin Mother, is the "way" that God himself prepared for his coming into the world. With all her humility, Mary walks at the head of the new Israel in the exodus from every exile, from all oppression, from every moral and material slavery, toward "the new heavens and the new earth, in which justice lives" (2 Peter 3:13). Let us entrust the desire for peace and salvation of the men of our time to her maternal intercession.

Quick Survey

*Please complete and return to ITD at
PO Box 446, Traralgon VIC 3844
or email to stonesswillshout@yahoo.com.au*

1. Where are you from?
 - a. Australia – please circle: WA, NT, SA, QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS.
 - b. International – please specify:
.....
2. How long have you been reading ITD?
 - a. less than a year
 - b. 1-4 years
 - c. 4-8 years
 - d. since the first issue
 - e. I only read it occasionally
 - f. this is the first time I've read it.
3. What do you read in ITD?
 - a. the whole issue
 - b. most of it
 - c. only the letters
 - d. only the Vatican/Papal bits
 - e. only one or two articles usually.
4. Do you read ITD because
 - a. you like it?
 - b. you dislike it but want to know what "the other side" thinks?
5. What would you like to see more or less of?
 - a. words of the Holy Father: MORE / LESS
 - b. letters: MORE / LESS
 - c. Church teaching: MORE / LESS
 - d. quotes from saints: MORE / LESS
 - e. other – please specify:
.....
.....
 - f. it's the right balance.
6. Do you think articles in ITD are
 - a. too long?
 - b. too short?
 - c. the right balance.
7. Do you think ITD, at 12 pages, is
 - a. too long?
 - b. too short?
 - c. the right length.
8. Would you be interested in coming to an ITD get-together in January in Gippsland? YES / NO

Please add any other comments if you wish to.

Thank you! - Ed.

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	6pm Thursday – 6pm Friday (Sacred Heart Church)
Orbost	Friday 9.30am – 10.30am
Rosedale	First Wednesday 10am – 11am
Sale	Friday 11.30am – 2pm First Friday 11.30am – 6pm
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

“O Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament,

I would like to be filled with love for You; keep me closely united with You, may my heart be near to Yours. I want to be to You like the apostle John. O Mary of the Rosary, keep me recollected when I say these prayers of yours; bind me forever, with your rosary, to Jesus of the Blessed Sacrament. Blessed be Jesus, my love...”

Pope John XXIII, Journal of a Soul

Adoration for Life

*Dietmar Fischer, director of
Human Life International, Austria*

“We have five chapels of perpetual adoration in our Life Counseling Centers [in Austria]. Here people pray day and night for life for the women in need. In only 12 years, over 13,500 children have been saved from abortion – through counseling in front of the abortion clinics and through the concrete help offered in our Life Counseling Centers.”

www.zenit.org 20-09-2010

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

Contact Into the Deep

www.stoneswillshout.com

stoneswillshout@yahoo.com.au

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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)

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.