

# St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025**



## **Daily Reflections**

<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html>

***Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025***

***3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent***

***2 Kings 5:1-15, Psalm 41, Luke 4:24-30.***

***Reflection: My Soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face***

Both Scripture readings today challenge us to let God be God in the Breadth and scope which transcend the limitations of our finite minds. As a way of living with a certain predictability in a complex world, we so often plan and define our pathway through life. This is necessary for our psychological security. However, if these boundaries become too inflexible, we fail to be open to the movement of God's spirit in our hearts. We note that Naaman the leper was given advice from the prophet Elisha to bathe in the Jordan river. Initially this proud army commander resisted such simple advice. It was the servant of Naaman who with their own sound, natural logic, convinced him to follow Elisha's advice. The result was a miraculous cure. It is encouraging for us to note that it was those at the margin's (Naaman's servants) who were open to experiencing God's healing presence in the ordinary events and routines of their lives.



***TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025***

***The Annunciation of the Lord***

***3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent***

***Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10, Psalm 39, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38.***

***Reflection: Here I am Lord, I come to do your will***

The pivotal event in our awakening of God's incarnation in our world is portrayed with surprise, ordinariness, and simplicity. The scene is set in a humble, remote town in Galilee. Mary creates the new. She represents the generous response of those on the margins—the poor in Spirit. Luke wants us to find sanctuaries of prayer that respond to God's inspiring Spirit wherever there are people open to God and willing to listen. Like Mary, when we hear God's call as a stirring within our hearts, we need to seek clarity. Mary's question is simple and direct. It is a 'how' question which brings forth a surprising response: the Holy Spirit will shine on you; will embrace you and empower you. Although Mary's path was unknown, she surrendered and trusted God. It is easy to trust God when our next steps have clarity and predictability. The greater test for us is to trust God when our next steps are unknown, and we are unsure how to move forward. Mary chose to trust God during her fears and uncertainties. She didn't lean on her own understanding and limited perspective. We give thanks for this extraordinary woman, known as the first among the disciples.



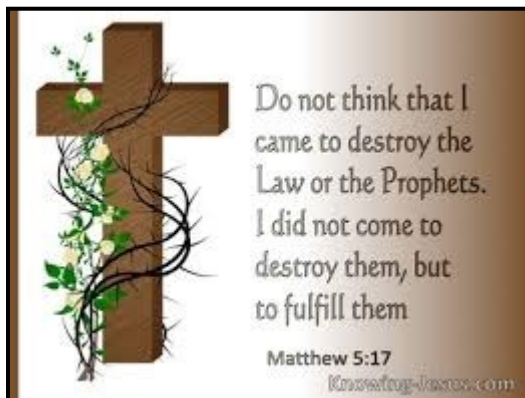
**WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent**

**Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9, Psalm 147: 12-13, 15-16, 19-20,  
Matthew 5: 17-19.**

***Reflection: Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.***

Both Scripture readings today speak of the importance of continuity in our lives. This is especially so in terms of laws and guiding structures. These can be likened to the scaffolding that surrounds a building during construction which is important but not the actual building. This explains the emphasis that Jesus places in today's Gospel on the Law and the words of the Prophets. Importantly Jesus links these two sources of the Jewish tradition. He is reminding the people that the all-important interpretation of the law, especially in terms of justice, mercy, and faith, must be practised if the law is to be honoured. However, he also recognises that God's revelation is an ongoing process. It is not fixed in one time or place. The written law always remains static unless its purpose is fulfilled. Accomplishment of the law is expressed in our lived experiences identified with love, compassion, trust, and generosity.



***THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025***

***3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent***

***Jeremiah 7: 23-28, Psalm 94: 1-2, 6-9, Luke 11: 14-23.***

***Reflection. If today you hear his voice – Harden not your hearts.***

Today's Gospel presents a challenge to all of us. The orientation of our hearts seeks good. We make choices and desire changes that align with that which we seek. In the Gospel scene we witness, along with the crowd, the merciful action of Jesus as he liberates a man possessed by the devil. This is an act of deep healing which we desire both for ourselves and others. Yet in some way those watching such profound human liberation were threatened by the actions of Jesus. They failed to recognise the source and power of the redemptive energy of God's spirit. Such oppositional power generates a closed mindset. While we lament the dark powers which operate in our world today, we also fail to recognise the good that is before our very eyes. We pray for insight to learn how to contribute to the healing of structures which keep people oppressed in our world today.



**FRIDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent**

**Hosea 14: 2-10, Psalm 80: 6, 8-11, 14, 17, Mark 12: 28-34.**

***Reflection. I am the Lord, your God: hear my voice.***

There is a clarity and simplicity in today's Gospel reading which transcends complex law and penetrates the heart. Those who are gifted with eyes to see this are, as Jesus said, 'not far from the reign of God'. The first two commandments, love of God and love of neighbour, while separately identified, are intimately connected. Vital to our wholehearted response to God is that it flows over in love to others. The divine love that we have received as pure gift must be expressed and returned through the channel of loving our neighbour. This is essentially what it means to be authentic in mission. Through Hosea the prophet in the first reading, God reminds us of this, saying, 'all your fruitfulness comes from me'. Our Catholic tradition is enriched by many who have gone before us expressing their love of God through selfless love of others. We could identify with the words of today's psalmist, 'we have been fed with the finest wheat and filled with honey from the rock'



**SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent.**

**Hosea 5: 6:6, Psalm 50: 3-4, 18-21. R. cf. Hosea 6:6, Luke 18: 9-14.**

**Reflection** *Let us set ourselves to know the Lord....*

In today's Gospel we hear the contrasting prayers of two men known as the Pharisee and the tax collector. We are even given a sense of their location in the Temple – one at the front and the other at the back. Ironically, the Pharisee's prayer delivered in a prominent place, reveals that it is full of self-talk about his own accomplishments contrasted with the failures of others. In this way he is not actually praying because his attention is not on God but on himself. Meanwhile the tax collector has a more accurate sense of his identity in relation to God. There is a strong sense of reversal in this parable which centres around those who judge themselves to be righteous and virtuous in terms of traditional faith teaching and others who in all sincerity seek other ways of being in relationship with the Divine. The parable reminds us that as we faithfully come to God in prayer our focus needs to be firmly set on the loving merciful heart of God.

## **God Hears a Humble Heart**

**Luke 18: 9-14**

*"I believe the first test of a truly great man is his humility. John Ruskin*

*"Humility is something we should constantly pray for, yet never thank God that we have." M.R. DeHaan*

**Recurring themes in the parables:**

- Stewardship, wealth, possessions
- The Kingdom of God
- Using our talents and gifts

