

A reflection by the Venerable Servant of God, Archbishop Fulton J Sheen

It is one of the curious anomalies of present-day civilisation that when man achieves greatest control over nature, he has the least control over himself. The great boast of our age is our domination of the universe: we have harnessed the waterfalls, made the wind a slave to carry us on wings of steel, and squeezed from the earth the secret of its age. Yet, despite this mastery of nature, there perhaps never was a time when man was less a master of himself. He is equipped like a veritable giant to control the forces of nature, but is as weak as a pigmy to control the forces of his passions and inclinations.

If, indeed, this life is a vale of character making, and if it involves conflict with those forces and powers which would drag us away from our ideals, then it behooves us to realise that the truest conquest is self-conquest, that true progress may more properly consist in mastering our rampant impulses and selfish desires, than in mastering the winds and seas. But this conquest of self cannot be attained except by a struggle which in Christian language is mortification. Mortification means dying to live for the love of God.

First of all, it means dying to live. It is a law of nature and grace that a higher life is purchased only by dying to a lower one, or that we live to the life of the spirit and the Kingdom of God only by dying to this world, with its flesh and its concupiscence. Recall the tremendous emphasis which our Blessed Lord placed upon this aspect of mortification - words which we but rarely hear in these milk and water Christianities of our day. "Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falling to the ground die, itself remaineth alone. But if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit ... Enter you in at the narrow gate, for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction and many there are who go in thereat. How narrow is the gate and straight is the way that leadeth to life: and few there are that find it. ... If any man will come after Me let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ... If any man come to Me and hate not his father and mother and wife and children and brethren and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. . . . And if thy hand scandalise thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into unquenchable fire; where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not extinguished. And if thy foot scandalize thee, cut it off. It is better for thee to enter lame into life everlasting than having two feet to be cast into the hell of unquenchable fire; where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not extinguished. And if thy eye scandalise thee, pluck it out. It is better for thee with one eye to enter into the kingdom of God, than having two eyes to be cast into the hell of fire; where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not extinguished. . . . The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent bear it away. . . . For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but he that shall lose his life for My sake shall save it."

These warnings sound strange to our lives, moulded so often on the assumption that this life is the only one we can be sure of, and hence, while we have it, we should eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die. They sometimes are dismissed with a shrug of the shoulders, as if such suggestions belonged to the past and should have no part in our modern life of ease and luxury. The law of mortification, which consists in dying to live, is one of the fundamental laws of life and one which cannot be ignored by anyone who knows the meaning and purpose of life.

Glance over the various levels of creation, the chemical, the plant, the animal, the human order and see how well verified is the law that a higher life is purchased only by death to a lower life.

In like manner, if a man is ever to enter into the higher life of Christ and man has no right to say there is no higher life than his own any more than a rose has a right to say there is no higher life than it - if he is ever to enjoy communion with Him, so as to have the blood of God running in his veins and the spirit of God throbbing in his soul, he must die to the lower life of the flesh. Aye, he must be born again, for unless a man is born to that life of God by a death to the lower life of nature, he cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. And hence the law of Calvary is the law of every Christian: unless there is the Cross there will never be the resurrection, unless there is the defeat of Calvary there will never be the victory of Easter, unless there are the nails there will never be the glorious wounds, unless there is the garment of scorn, there will never be the robes blazing like the sun, unless there is the crown of thorns there will never be the halo of light, unless there is the descent into the grave there will never be the Ascension, for the law laid down at the beginning of time which shall be effective until time shall be no more, is that no one shall be crowned unless he has struggled and overcome, and no one shall enjoy the life of God until he has died to his selfish self. But in this surrender of the lower life, let it not be thought that mortification is a sign of weakness; rather it is a sign of power: it is the will controlling itself, submitting itself to defeat at its own hands, in order to win its finest victory; it is the making of the dead self a steppingstone to better things and the conquest of self the condition of the victory which brings everlasting peace and joy with God.

But mortification means not only dying to live. Its fullest meaning embraces also its inspiration, which is love, for the difference between pain and sacrifice is love. Love is the soul of sacrifice. The day that man forgets that love is identical with sacrifice, that day he will ask how a God of love could demand mortification and self-denial. Hence, whenever and wherever there is an intense and passionate love of Christ and Him Crucified, sacrifice involved in crushing anything which keeps one away from Him is not felt pain but the sweetest kind of love, for what is pain but sacrifice without love.

(The Moral Universe – A Preface to Christian Living)



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B 29 SEPTEMBER 2024



“This, then, is our task: to educate both ourselves and our children in godliness; otherwise what answer will we have before Christ’s judgement-seat?”
- St John Chrysostom

Entrance Antiphon: All that You have done to us, O Lord, You have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against You and not obeyed Your commandments. But give glory to Your name and deal with us according to the bounty of Your mercy.

First Reading Numbers 11:25-29

A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, ‘Look,’ he said, ‘Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.’ Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, ‘My Lord Moses, stop them!’ Moses answered him, ‘Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave His Spirit to them all!’

♦ **The word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 18:8, 10, 12-14

R: The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

1. The Law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**
2. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **R.**
3. So in them Your servant finds instruction; great reward is in their keeping. But who can detect all his errors? From hidden faults acquit me. **R.**
4. From presumption restrain Your servant and let it not rule me. Then shall I be blameless, clean from grave sin. **R.**

Second Reading James 5:1-6

A reading from the letter of St James

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them - listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart’s content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

♦ **The word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation cf. John 17:17

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

John said to Jesus, ‘Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in Your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.’ But Jesus said, ‘You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in My name is likely to speak evil of Me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.

‘If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.

‘But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.

♦ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Communion Antiphon: Remember Your word to Your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.



Sacred Heart Parish Church

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

September 29, 2024

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Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066
Parish Office Hours:
Monday 30 Sept & Friday 4 Oct - 8am to 1pm
Tuesday 1 Oct - 8am to 12pm
Administrator: Fr Paul Chandler
PPC Chair: Mr David McMahon
Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger
Parish Secretary: Peter Turner



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

We pray for: Repose of all those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Repose of all souls in Purgatory; the health and recovery of Craig Johnston.

the Recently Deceased:

Brenda McPhee, Jeanette Keightley, Margaret Kahler, Kaylene Maybury, Sr Agnes Sasagawa (visionary of Our Lady of Akita in Japan).

the sick:

Shirley Thompson, Pat Gurr, Jim Hanlon, Craig Johnston, Bob McGuire, Peter Moroney, Christopher Pay, Neville Barwick, Fr Barry Leech, Lara Bentley, Danny Dickins, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish.

Please contact the priest on 67221103 for home visits to the homebound and the sick

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)
BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550
Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.
2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses
BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072
Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference.

Planned Giving Program: If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

SEPTEMBER - THE HOLY MONTH OF THE SEVEN SORROWS OF OUR LADY

MONDAY 29th

Feast Day of St Jerome, priest, doctor

No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm

OCTOBER - THE HOLY MONTH OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

TUESDAY 1st

Feast Day of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, virgin, doctor

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm

WEDNESDAY 2nd

Feast Day of The Holy Guardian Angels

Requiem Mass for Brenda McPhee – 8:45am at St Patrick's Church, Ashford

Funeral of Brenda McPhee - 10am, St Patrick's Church

THURSDAY 3rd

Feast Day of Bl. Aloysius Stepinac

Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12 Noon

Adoration - 12.30pm to 1.30pm

FRIDAY 4th

First Friday & Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi

Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12 Noon

Adoration & Benediction - 12.30pm to 1.30pm

SATURDAY 5th

First Saturday & Feast Day of St Faustina Kowalska, virgin

Confession - 8.00am

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Rosary - 5.30pm

Holy Mass of Sunday - 6.00pm

SUNDAY 6th

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Sacrament of Confession

Sunday: 8.00am to 8.30am

Tuesday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday: 1.00pm to 1.30pm

Friday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm (except First Fridays)

Saturday: 5.15pm to 5.30pm (and at any time upon request)

OTHER MASSES:

McLean Village Each 4th Thursday - 10.00am

2nd Saturday - *Bundarra*, St Mary of the Angels - 3.30pm

3rd Saturday - *Ashford*, St Patrick's Church - 3.30pm

4th Saturday - *Tingha*, St. Francis' Church - 3.30pm

5th Saturday - *Yetman*, St Joseph the Worker - 3.00pm

Baptism - Saturdays & Sundays at 10.30am

Marriages and Funerals by Appointment

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

A friendly reminder

Please maintain a respectful atmosphere of reverence before and after each Mass so those praying may do so without distraction. Any conversation should be conducted quietly. Also, please remember to turn off your mobile devices.

"By devoutly assisting at Holy Mass you render the greatest homage possible to the Sacred Humanity of Our Lord."

- St Leonard

ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR OCTOBER

Maree Chie & Mary Middleton

HOME ROSARY



"How beautiful is the family that recites the Rosary every evening." - Pope St John Paul II

Bernie & Colleen Graham

11 Diamond Street, Tingha

Wednesday 25 September at 4.30pm

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Finance Committee - Wed 9 Oct 2024, 5.00pm

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 13 Oct 2024, after Mass

Pastoral Council - Wed 16 Oct 2024, 5.00pm

Liturgy Committee - Sat 19 Oct 2024, 9.00am

Thank you to those who have donated to the air-conditioning project. For others who may wish to contribute, you may use the Special Collection envelopes placed at the entrances of the Church or use the BSB and Account Number of the 2nd Collection. Use "air-conditioning" as the reference.

The 100 Club Fundraiser Poster is now up in the Meeting Room. \$2 per number box. Instructions are on the poster. Please place entry money into the money container provided.

FOR SALE

- The Rinnai Energysaver **gas heaters** in the church. One parishioner has already expressed interest in one of them. The other is going for **\$100 or nearest offer**.

- 2 **pre-cut kitchen bench tops (brand new - never used)** - KABOODLE brand available at Bunnings - each 600mm wide, 38mm deep, 3380mm long - Oyster Swirl colour - selling at 50% of retail price - **\$300 each!**

Sales Cash only. Contact Parish Office during office hours for inspection and collection.

A short music practice will be held after the 9am Mass this Sunday to learn a new setting for the parts of the Mass. All welcome.

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary for her Seven Sorrows

O Blessed Mother Mary, your Immaculate Heart was afflicted seven times with a deep anguish. In your great sorrow you never doubted God's Divine Wisdom, but joined your Will to His. We beseech you to stand by us in our trials and teach us to follow your example of patience, love, and charity. Pray for us, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



Feast Day of Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael - 29 Sept

Heavenly King, You have given us archangels to assist us during our pilgrimage on earth. Saint Michael is our protector; I ask

him to come to my aid, fight for all my loved ones, and protect us from danger. Saint Gabriel is a messenger of the Good News; I ask him to help me clearly hear Your voice and to teach me the truth. Saint Raphael is the healing angel; I ask him to take my need for healing and that of everyone I know, lift it up to Your throne of grace and deliver us back to the gift of recovery. Help us, O Lord, to realise more fully the reality of archangels and their desire to serve us. Holy angels, pray for us. Amen.



Feast Day of the Holy Guardian Angels - 2 Oct

O Holy Guardian Angels, to whose care we have been entrusted by God, enlighten, preserve, and govern us this day; defend us from all temptations, and obtain for us all needful grace, that we may love God, and serve Him here, until we join with you to love, praise, and enjoy God's presence, in everlasting life. Amen.



Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary - 4 & 5 Oct

O Heart of Jesus pierced for our sins and giving us Your Mother on Calvary! O Heart of Mary pierced by sorrow and sharing in the sufferings of your Divine Son for our redemption! O sacred union of these

Two Hearts! Praised be the God of Love Who united them together! May we unite our hearts and every heart so that all hearts may live in unity in imitation of that sacred unity which exists in these Two Hearts. Triumph, O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary! Reign, O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus! - in our hearts, in our homes and families, in the hearts of those who as yet do not know you, and in all nations of the world. Amen.

Daylight Saving starts next Sunday, 6 October at 2am. Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour.



George Nulley from ADIG is visiting Inverell and will be present at both

Masses this weekend. George will be available for information about investing with ADIG.

MASS ROSTER	28Sept-Sat 6.00pm	29Sept-Sun 9am	5Oct-Sat 6pm	6Oct-Sun 9am
Projector	Sr Coral	MJ Guest	S Szumowski	H Rossel
Readers	M Casey-Ransom & J Harris	J Rainger & J Monie	C Roberts & J Kelly	MJ Guest & B McGrath
Commentator	Volunteer	M Robinson	J Monie	M Gaukroger
Offertory	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	A Michael	S Hollis	J Monie	R Johnson
Counters		R & G Johnson		L MacDonald & P Girle