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Reaching out in faith Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

The Catholic Enquiry Centre is a work of the National Centre for Evangelisation which is an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

FAITH JOURNEY

For people starting out on a spiritual journey.

For those not connected with Church

A relationship of the heart with God

REFLECTION Begins with situations in life common to all of us

Leads the reader to where God fits into all this

You know who _ is writing to you



Michael

In this edition we ponder the question: what might God be asking of you?



REFLECTION

There are certain moments in your life when you are confronted with a choice: do you continue on the path you are currently following, or do you take a turn to the left or the right? You weigh up all the options and you attempt to take into account all the information you have at your disposal...and then you decide. That works for many of the decisions we need to make.

However, it doesn't work in the journey of faith. That's because we need to consider more than ourselves, or simply those factors that we believe need to be taken into account.

God's role is central. Because of this, you are dealing with something more than your ability to be able to weigh up the options. Instead, you're faced with the question: is God inviting me into a deeper relationship with himself?

There are reasons why you have signed up to this online spirituality resource. For some, it will be because you are ...

Read more





FAITH JOURNEY TIP

Someone said to me once: 'Don't tell me that Jesus Christ wants to have a personal relationship with me. I don't want to know that because that might mean my life needs to change.' He was quite right. Believing that Jesus is alive and seeking to have a relationship with you changes everything.

I wonder how many of us actually believe that Jesus is with us, calling us into a lifegiving relationship with him. Sometimes we can see him, sometimes we can't, and most of the time we forget about him.

Christianity is not meant to be like that. We are invited into a living and deep relationship with Jesus Christ, in whom we experience God. That changes everything.

Wishing you every peace and blessing until next time.

Shane

a free

Shane Dwyer Director National Centre for Evangelisation info@catholicenguiry.com 1300 432 484 A free monthly email to seekers and enquirers continuing their spiritual journey 1200 subscribers nationally

https://www.catholicenquiry.com/faith-journey

Final words from our Director on this topic. A challenge.

a free choice to sign up – involves decision

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For people on the journey of faith seeking to understand what it would be like to have God in their life.

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In prayer we talk to God, and reflect with God on our life. Here are the words for doing this – this is how it's done.

Topics about our everyday lives

Dealing with our emotions

Jesus began to weep. John 11:33

It is intriguing the way in which my four adult children deal with what life throws at them.

One of them in particular shares her emotions with the world. If she is happy, sad, 'ticked off', frustrated, tired, joyful, sick - we all know! A couple of the others require a bit of prodding to prise out of them what's going on.

when they surface in public. We have developed stereotypical ideas of how we should express what's going on inside us. For example, is it okay for a man to cry, or a woman to show anger?

It is heartening, therefore, to know that Jesus, in his humanity, showed a wide range of emotions. He wept at the death of his friend, Lazarus. He showed his anger when he discovered the bad behaviour going on in the temple. Jesus was not afraid to express his emotions.

is a beautiful gift that allows you to share all the emotions of your heart with someone who really

cares, and makes no judgements.

What this means for me together with God

How

lesus

these

things

handled

Dealing with our emotions can be tricky, especially Whilst I'm not suggesting life is to be lived as if on an emotional roller-coaster, or allow anger to escalate to an inappropriate level, it is perfectly okay to express openly what you feel internally. However you choose to express your feelings, be assured God knows what's going on. Prayer

Lord God

You know me so well.

Sometimes life can be an emotional rollercoaster. Sadness, anger, confusion and frustration can well up inside me, burst and spill over so everyone can see. Sometimes my chest can feel so tight as I try to keep the feelings contained.

Please, God, provide me with people I can trust to share my inner feelings. When I express my emotions, may they be received with kindness. understanding, love and respect. May I, in turn, reach out and show kindness to those whose emotions reflect an internal sadness, pain or confusion.

May I always know you are there to listen to me. And that you do not pass judgement on me as I negotiate my way through life's challenges.

Amen 335

Discovering Prayer by seeing how prayer is talking with God who knows me, cares for me, and is always listening.



CALL AND RESPONSE

An Introduction to the Catholic Faith



35 Chapters each 2 – 5 pages long

Chapter

names

clearly

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Faith

Chapter 28

Prayer and Action

In this chapter we explore how prayer and action relate to each other, taking as our model two parables told by Jesus.

In Chapter 10 of the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is asked a series of questions by a lawyer who already knows the answers. Alert to the trick, Jesus responds with a question to the lawyer, What is written in the law? What do you read there? The lawyer replies, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. Jesus then tells the lawyer this indeed is correct: do this, and you will live (Luke 10:26-27). The lawyer, now somewhat publicly embarrassed, seeks to justify his question to those listening and so asks Jesus another question: And who is my neighbor? (Luke 10:29) This is a key question with regard to being a disciple of Jesus and the answer radically reshapes the traditional Jewish understanding of the Law. In response to the lawyer's question Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan.

A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do

Many scripture

quotes

For people new to the Faith heading

For a different wording and phrases

for teachers to explain the Faith

towards Catholic Baptism.

• For Catholics to better understand their faith.

you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, "The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.' (Luke 10:30-37)

In responding to the lawyer's question in this manner, Jesus turns the question on its head. He illustrates to the lawyer, a man who was proud of his adherence to the Law, the scandalous fact that it is the Samaritan, the one who is seen to be outside the Law, who is the neighbour. Jesus is telling the lawyer and us readers that it is the despised outcast who should be loved by the lawyer as he would love himself.

Jesus then instructs the lawyer and us to act as the Samaritan acted: Go and do likewise.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is immediately followed by the story of Martha and Mary, and each of these stories throws light on the other.

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.' (Luke 10:38-42)

We note in this account that Mary is sitting at the Lord's feet, presumably with the disciples. Martha, perhaps, is doubly concerned by the amount of work to be done and the fact that her sister appears to be so close to the Lord. Martha asks Jesus to instruct Mary to help her. Jesus uses this episode as another opportunity to teach and replies to Martha: ... you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her (Luke 10:41-42).

The implication of this teaching is that if we are so action-





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