

# The Bulletin Board

## 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

### Scripture Reflection

Don Schwager is the author of *Daily Scripture Readings and Meditations*

Since 1970 he has been a lay religious brother in the Servants of the Word, an ecumenical Christian brotherhood of men living single for the Lord. He currently resides with the Servants of the household in London, England



Whose glory do you seek? There can be no share in God's glory without the cross. When Jesus prophesied his own betrayal and crucifixion, it did not make any sense to his disciples because it did not fit their understanding of what the Messiah came to do. And they were afraid to ask further questions! Like a person who might receive a bad verdict from the doctor and then refuse to ask further questions, they, too, didn't want to know any more. How often do we reject what we do not wish to see? We have heard the good news of God's word and we know the consequences of accepting it or rejecting it. But do we give it our full allegiance and mold our lives according to it? Ask the Lord to fill you with his Holy Spirit and to inspire within you a reverence for his word and a readiness to obey it.

How ashamed the disciples must have been when Jesus overheard them arguing about who among them was the greatest! But aren't we like the disciples? We compare ourselves with others and desire their praise. The appetite for glory and greatness seems to be inbred in us. Who doesn't cherish the ambition to be "somebody" whom others admire rather than a "nobody"? Even the psalms speak about the glory God has destined for us. *You have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor* (Psalm 8:5).

Jesus made a dramatic gesture by embracing a child to show his disciples who really is the greatest in the kingdom of God. What can a little child possibly teach us about greatness? Children in the ancient world had no rights, position, or privileges of their own. They were socially at the "bottom of the rung" and at the service of their parents, much like the household staff and domestic servants.

What is the significance of Jesus' gesture? Jesus elevated a little child in the presence of his disciples by placing the child in a privileged position of honor. It is customary, even today, to seat the guest of honor at the right side of the host. Who is the greatest in God's kingdom? The one who is humble and lowly of heart – who instead of asserting their rights willingly empty themselves of pride and self-seeking glory by taking the lowly position of a servant or child.

Jesus, himself, is our model. He came not to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:28). Paul the Apostle states that Jesus emptied himself and took the form of a servant (Philippians 2:7). Jesus lowered himself (he whose place is at the right hand of God the Father) and took on our lowly nature that he might raise us up and clothe us in his divine nature.

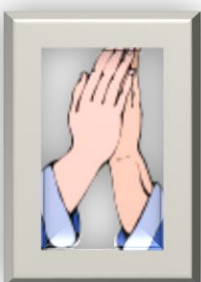
*God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble* (James 4:6). If we want to be filled with God's life and power, then we need to empty ourselves of everything which stands in the way – pride, self-seeking glory, vanity, etc. God wants empty vessels so he can fill them with his own glory, power, and love (2 Corinthians 4:7). Are you ready to humble yourself and to serve as Jesus did?

A photograph of a man in a grey t-shirt hugging a young child in a green vest. The background is a soft-focus purple and blue.

# Prayer for Peace

## All Night Prayer Vigil for Peace

Sat 3rd Oct, 7:30pm -  
Sun 4th Oct, 9:30am  
Sts Peter & Paul's Catholic Church  
377 Dorcas St, South Melbourne



**Please remember to keep the following people and their families in your prayers,** Val Boothey, Valda Hogan, Maurie Smith, Chrissa Dickinson, John McIlvenna, Gilian Stewart, Flo O'Hara. Julian Insall, Sr Joyce Stewart, Celestine Ressia, Gabrielle Herrin, Terence Rahill, Janet Dent, Klara (1 year old suffering from Leukemia), Nicki Fabro, Pietrina Pergreffi, Peter Woods, Marj Bateson, Michael Pucella



**Please remember those who have died recently** Ursula Milligan, Wim Wubben **and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time** Gregory Abdilla, Frances O’Kane, Mavis McCormack, Charles Neander, Joseph Casserly, Rita O’Connor, Arthur McArdle.



*Save the date for  
Our next Winter Warmer  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm*

As in past years we will again be educated, entertained and amused by a range of speakers, whilst at the same time enjoying the company of fellow parishioners and providing a great chance for new parishioners to come along and introduce your selves. The talk normally goes for about 20-30 minutes with a time for questions afterwards.

***Our next WW speaker will be Fr Julian*** a member of the OFM.Cap order. Father will speak to us about his own journey as a Capuchin and of the work that the Capuchin order is involved in.

Meals are \$15 with a choice of 5 dishes including 1 vegetarian option. Drinks will be at bar price. ***As bookings are required for this event, there is a signup sheet at the back of the Church.***

The Limerick Hotel is situated on the corner of Park & Clarendon Streets, easily accessible by car, tram or shanks pony.