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Welcome to Father Vlad's Newsletter!

Let's stay in touch for updates on events and special seasonal messages!

I will be glad to stay in touch, but if you prefer not to receive these messages, please unsubscribe below. Thank you.

Please visit www.fathervlad.com for more!

The Universe Catholic

Father Vlad latest column on The Universe Catholic:

[4th August 2023 - Sportspersonship - not just for a man](#)

[11th August 2023 - They are not your opponents](#)

[1st September 2023 - The wonderful women in sport](#)

[15th September 2023 - Resilience is a God-given attribute](#)

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 1st October 2023

As we can see, repentance can be both negative and positive.

I will do – I will not do

I will not do – I will do.

Actions speak louder than words

Quick, nearly automatic reactions, called primo-primi acts, are reflex and nearly instantaneous reactions, such as withdrawing one's hand after suffering an electric shock – or react with anger when attacked, physically, intellectually or emotionally in which the will does not have time to intervene. These are acts of a human NOT - technically/ethically human acts.

It's good to have the courage to change plan in light of context. You may plan to bring a bottle of wine – until you find your host is a drying out teetotaler.

When hurt/insulted, instinct to plot revenge – until remember Mt 25, 40 "What you do to the least of mine, you do unto me."

Too tired to do morning exercise? Until I remember that my body is a gift from God and not to look after a gift is an insult to the giver. So, I get on with it.

See someone who is "not one of us" and thus get tempted to look down on them – even treat them badly , until remember that every human is a child of God and carries, deep-down, that omnipresent divine DNA.

Feel fear? Flight? Or remember your duty, responsibility – even PR image – and pass through that fear barrier and perform as a courageous person.

When tempted to not prepare my homily, I use my vanity to do my best and – perhaps – keep my reputation as an OK preacher

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 24th September 2023

What does today's Gospel teach you?

Bottom line – for me – it is, "My ways are not your ways, says The Lord" (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Years ago, talking with some Trade Union leaders, this parable, I remember was - for them - very upsetting. Not fair! they said.

Contracts do not include generosity!

Remember Calvary and the Good Thief? The Good thief opened his heart to Christ - and his past was on no consequence. "Today, you will be with me in Paradise"(Lk 23, 43)

He was one of those who came in on the 11th hour.

Our danger is to project on God our way of thinking, our culture, Hence purgatory - and in the olden days - limbo for the unbaptised. Yet The Good Thief was not baptised – and with years of evil actions on his CV.

In God's eyes, it seems, that the past is a rehearsal for the present. It how we are NOW that matters. It is never too late – and never too soon – to open our hearts to God and be redeemed – and rejoicing in that gift, look - attractively - redeemed.

I strive to live the values of the Kingdom because they are ubuntu. Good for you AND good for me.

Short homilies save my voice AND stop you getting bored and switching off. Or so it seems

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 17th September 2023

Today's Gospel scene focuses on forgiveness.

Forgiveness is good for health of the forgiver. If angry you are the only one who is suffering. Bad for digestion, complexion and health. Unforgiveness is a mugs game. Jesus wants us to have life to the full (Jn 10,10) and forgiving enables us to have that.

Not always easy NOT, when burgled! - back in 1984 in OLG Chiswick, presbytery.

Natural instinct was - if I caught him - to smash the burglar's face – or do serious damage further down his torso. Good to admit the emotion.

Then the supernatural response - which took a couple of days to engender in my heart. I was eventually able to forgive the bloke. I managed that by praying for him. Poor person, having robbed a church. Pathetic. Unlikely to have felt proud.

Pity dissolves anger.

When - for almost 20 years – I ran the diocesan work with young people, at SPEC centre in London Colney we used to have prayer session on Peter's denial of Jesus. "As the cock crew, the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter (Lk22, 61) ." What did that look transmit?

We carried on discussing it - and getting to know the character of Jesus from what they knew of him from the Gospels - until the young folk agreed it was forgiveness.

Jesus loved Peter. To love is to understand. To understand is to forgive.

Forgive because have been forgiven - lots.Forgiveness sets us free to get on with life and rather than resenting the past , living in the present of the present in which God is present. As He now is here with us all.

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time -10th September 2023

"Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them."

These words have shaped my Grace Before Meals. "Father we thank you, for the food and the drink – and those who have prepared them for us. May we during this meal, come closer to each other and thus closer to you."

Admire and thank God for the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, in the Gospels, in us individually and in a community drawn together by love.

"In my name" Jesus/Jeshua, means and expresses Christ's mission. The word actually means: "God saves". God saves us from sin and death. God saves us for eternal life.

Remember how in Acts 16,30-31 we read that when Paul and Silas had been arrested, an earthquake shook the prison, the doors opened, and the chains of all the prisoners were loosed. The jailer, greatly concerned, approached the two, falling before them and pleading, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas replied, "Believe in – be committed to - the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."

And that night, as Paul and Silas shared "the word of the Lord," salvation came to that jailer's family.

Let us strive to be committed to The Word of God and make sure that, whenever we are together, our conversation is always life enhancing, up lifting, never negative and depressing – through information, humour, wit and love.

I know I can't make happy people but I can make people happy. Like you, I hope.

Father Vlad on Radio Maria

Father Vlad podcasts on Radio Maria England are available! Please follow this link to access all podcasts [Father Vlad's Radio Maria podcasts](#)

Latest writing from Father Vlad

"A Journey to Eternity" is in three parts. The first is here-below. The third has been published already. The second - my years in Opus Dei - should come out later in 2023. In due course, all three will be there for you to read.

If you would prefer a hard copy, just drop me an email with your postal address and volumes 1 and 3 will arrive in your letterbox, soon.

[A Journey to Eternity - The Early Years 1939-1959](#)

Don't forget to buy Father Vlad's book Life Squared!

As I approached my 80th birthday, I wanted to find out what I really thought about life. Writing this book has crystallised my experiences. I now know better what I have learned and what I think.

Now, that I'm coming to the end of my life, I have finally learned how to live. Time's slippage nudged me to act on my dream of passing what I have learned on to others.

Father Vlad

To buy your copy of the book (£12.95+pp) please contact Father Vlad at: msg.vladimir.felzmann@gmail.com or +44 (7810) 116 508



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