

# KINGDOM REVELATOR

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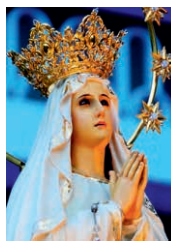


SPREADING THE GOSPEL OF LIFE | SWITCHING DREAMS



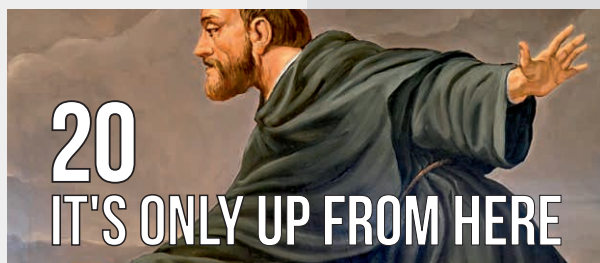
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Our Lady Seat of Wisdom,  
pray for us.

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# ARE THERE PROOFS FOR THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS?



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**106: There are no proofs for the Resurrection of Jesus in the scientific sense. There are, however, very strong individual and collective testimonies by a large number of contemporaries of those events in Jerusalem. [639-644, 647, 656-657]**

The oldest written testimony to the Resurrection is a letter that St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians around twenty years after Christ's death: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:3-6). Paul is recording here a living tradition that was present in the original Christian community two or three years after Jesus' death and Resurrection, when he himself became a Christian—on the basis of his own staggering encounter with the risen Lord. The disciples took the fact of the empty tomb (Lk 24:2-3) as the first indication of the reality of the Resurrection. Women, of all people, discovered it—according to the law of that time they were not able to testify. Although we read about the Apostle John that he "saw and believed" (Jn 20:8b) already at the empty tomb, full assurance that Jesus was alive came about only after a series of appearances. The many encounters with the risen Lord ended with Christ's Ascension into heaven. Nevertheless, there were afterward and there are even today encounters with the living Lord: Jesus Christ lives.

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## EDITORIAL

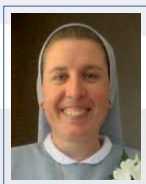


**M**any of us have heard about Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who for 50 years worked in the slums of Calcutta, India. There may be times when we would be reluctant to touch many of the people whom she touched and hugged daily - the dispossessed, the downtrodden, the diseased and the desperate. And yet, everyone who met Mother Teresa remarked on her warm smile. Ever wondered how, after almost 50 years of working in such challenging conditions she still managed to keep a warm smile on her face?

She once said, "When I was leaving home in Yugoslavia at the age of eighteen to become a nun, my mother told me something beautiful and very strange. She told me, You go put your hand in Jesus' hand and walk along with Him." And that was the secret of Mother Teresa's life. Although many of us have nice homes and have easy situations we don't have the warm smile on our faces that this little nun had. What's the difference? It may be that we've never put our hand in the hand of Jesus! Following her example, let us hold the hand of the Lord and put into practice the whole message of Pope Francis', 'Joy of the Gospel', into our lives.

....

# Switching DREAMS



*Sr Melissa shares how she switched her dream of winning an Olympic gold medal for the rewards in heaven.*

When I was a child, I remember my mother often having to drag me to the car to go to Mass. There was a program on television that I enjoyed watching, plus I spent a lot of time playing sport, so Mass and God were certainly not a priority in my life.

From the age of five, I dreamt of representing Australia at the Olympic Games. I played netball, hockey, cricket, tennis – but I excelled in athletics. The first time I picked up a javelin, I broke the club record and so from that point on, my father and I knew that javelin was my sport.

I wasn't the most naturally talented athlete but I believe I was one of the hardest working. I loved training on Christmas Day or in the rain, always seeking that advantage over others. A poster on my bedroom wall read, "Second place is the first loser," such was the level of my competitive nature and drive to be successful.

Sport was my first and only love. During school I went on to represent Queensland

and then subsequently began my studies as a secondary school physical education teacher. I had my sport, and many friends, yet I felt empty and lost. I seemed to have everything but I doubted myself and had a very low self-image. After some searching, it became apparent that a personal relationship with Jesus was the only thing that could satisfy my longing. I joined a youth group and began going to church.

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DOWN.

Two years later, I was invited by the Canossian Daughters of Charity to volunteer in Africa for a month. I had met the sisters through youth retreats, and at 19, the opportunity to travel to Africa and work with the poor excited me. Yet the trip clashed with the Olympic trials for the Sydney 2000 Games. I was living in Forster Tuncurry and training full time to see just how far my dream could go. When I won

the NSW Open Championships in the year 2000, I had to decide: Africa or Olympic trials?

I went to Africa, knowing I would still



have years to fulfil my sporting dreams. Little did I know that my life was about to be changed forever, and that my dreams were about to be turned upside down.

I travelled to Tanzania where I worked at a shelter for homeless young people. I remember meeting an 11-year-old girl called Neema. She had been left in a basket by her parents when she was born. She had suffered

This decision to walk away from sport and enter religious life was a shock, especially for my coaches, family and friends. Many people thought I was crazy and that I wouldn't make it. I didn't know the first thing about being a nun. Yet I knew I loved Jesus passionately and I wanted to live a radical life of following Him, so that Jesus had not only the first place in my heart, but the only place.

who have nothing but are so full of joy, taught me so much. People might think working in a remote village with no smart phone, limited internet, unreliable electricity and no hot shower is difficult. It took time to adapt. Yet it taught me that the greatest riches are not the externals, but the heart that loves. The people of Malawi opened their hearts to me and I feel so blessed to have had the chance to share my life with them.

I returned home to Brisbane in 2016, after seven years in Africa as principal of a girls' secondary school.

Currently God leads me on a different path of ministry here in Australia, yet what I continue to learn is that when we surrender to His plans, and let Him take control of our lives, we are led in ways we would never imagine.

My dream was an Olympic gold. God's dream for me was a religious life. I know that if I really want to follow Jesus radically, I need a listening heart and the courage to

follow wherever God calls me next. We don't choose to follow God once in pursuing a vocation. Each day when we say the Angelus, we join with Mary, in saying our "be it done unto me". In placing our lives in God's hands, remember that those who give their lives for the sake of the Gospel will receive life in abundance.

**To contact her, or find out more about the Canossian Sisters, visit their website :**

**[www.canossianvocationsaustralia.com](http://www.canossianvocationsaustralia.com)**

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greatly. When it was time to leave, Neema begged to come back to Australia with me – to be my servant; to tie my shoes and carry my bags. I remember being so angry that God could allow people to suffer like this. I asked God why I could do nothing to help this little girl, why I was so useless. In that moment, God told me very clearly that there was something I could do. I could give my life completely in service of God and God's people. At that point I decided to leave the sporting arena and become a Canossian Daughter of Charity.

I made my first vows in April 2005. Whilst I had to let go of my dream of representing Australia, I believe my vocation is a gift more precious than any gold medal.

In 2008, I was blessed to have the opportunity to go back to Africa and serve the people of Malawi. Malawi is a very small country, ranked the poorest in the world in 2016. Students are in the classroom at 5am and finish school at 9pm. They know the only way to escape poverty is through education.

Journeying with these people

# With Love From Peter And Paul



*Fr Roy Pannell, a priest from Chesterfield, UK, reminisces about a loving message from St Peter and St Paul and what they would like to convey to the world today.*

***St Peter says...***

***Frequently, regularly, renew your love for the Lord Jesus Christ.***

I had to do that 3 times at the side of lake Galilee after the first Easter. I did it because the Lord Himself asked me to. "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" 3 times! I think I know why.

When we renew our love for Him, in our prayer or by some act of love and charity to someone else, *The Lord lifts us up*. In other words, He gives us a happiness that is unique. If we have other loves in our lives which are trying to take us away from Him, then we should ask Him for assistance to deal with them in His loving way. Maybe the place for that is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You know, at the lakeside, after that Easter Day, I made my Confession and received His forgiveness. *I began again!*

**God bless you and keep you,  
*Peter***



**St Paul says...**

***No matter what happens, stay firm in the faith that you have been taught.***

Never stop seeking the whole truth about your faith. If you are unsure about anything, then ask.... actively seek the truth. Ask for *understanding*. So often does faith come first, then we seek for understanding. Ask specially to know how your faith should touch and effect the way you live your life.

You know, we need to continue seeking and learning whether we are 15, 29, 33 or 59. *Faith needs to mature and grow as we mature and grow.* I am not the same Paul now, as I was at 26. As you know, at that age, I actually persecuted the Church of Jesus Christ. It is only by God's grace that the Church of Jesus Christ came to accept me!

In my time, the Churches of Asia Minor and Greece wrote many letters to me on various issues regarding the Faith. I replied to them. It is sad that you cannot see their letters, only my replies. If you were to write to me today about the Church of Chesterfield, New York, Kerala or Cape Town, what would you tell me or ask me?

You know, Sisters and Brothers, everything we do must be *for the greater Glory of God*...wherever we live. So then, ask for understanding. Ask for *greater faith and understanding*. *It will deepen your trust in Jesus, the Christ.* It will make you more confident, and more courageous. Talk to people about the Faith. Talk to your friends, your pastors. Read the Holy Scriptures. Search the *world wide web*. How can you share your faith if you are not sure yourself? Remember it isn't weakness to ask. Remember the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ, "Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find."

**God bless you,  
Paul**

## Prayer...

Dear St Peter and St Paul,  
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for your prayers and for your sacrifices for the Church.  
You want us to use you still.  
You want us to befriend you.  
You join us when we pray especially at the Eucharist.  
You are continually with us through the communion of the saints, which is  
a gift from God, joining us all together.

....



# A SHOULDER TO CRY ON



*Rosemary Joy  
from Birmingham,  
encourages us to  
love selflessly and  
impart the love  
of Christ in our  
daily life.*

**S**t Francis was riding his horse one day near Assisi when he caught sight of a man with leprosy. The story is told that, although Francis was at first reluctant to approach the leper, he eventually got off his horse and went up to the leper and kissed him. When the leper held out his hand, Francis was moved with sympathy and gave him some money. As Francis rode off, he looked back to see the leper but could not see him anywhere. At that moment, Francis realised that the leper was Jesus in disguise, and remembered that he had kissed Jesus Himself.

## ***Stepping Out of your Comfort Zone***

In the parable of the Good Samaritan in the Gospel of St Luke, we see how a person literally saved the life of another by stepping out of his comfort zone. Unlike the first two men who passed by the injured man leaving him to die, the Good

Samaritan didn't see it as an inconvenience to offer help but rather did everything he could to show compassion. "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" (Luke 10:34).

There are times when we come across someone in need; someone sitting alone at school, being bullied or someone whom we know is going through a difficult time. It might seem an 'inconvenience' for us to go up to that person and offer help. We have to see that each person is a precious child of God who deserves to be loved and cherished. If we don't wipe away their tears, who will? If we don't lend them a shoulder to cry on, then who will? Why wait for someone else to do it when you are capable of doing it yourself.

Christ is calling us to be the reflection of His love in the lives of those who are unloved, rejected, and alone. Our words, our smile, our embrace could literally change someone's life. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and

recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Luke 4:18-19). Never underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit within you who is able to accomplish far more than you could ever imagine.

## ***Being Another Christ***

Jesus did not forget to show mercy in the midst of His own pain. If you are thinking, 'How can I comfort someone else when I'm in pain?', then you should follow the example of Christ. When Peter cut off the ear of the slave of the high priest who had come to arrest Jesus, Jesus "touched his ear and healed him" (Luke 22:51). Even though Jesus knew that soon His disciples, whom He had loved very much, would abandon Him and He would be crucified like a criminal on the cross, He was moved by compassion to heal the slave's ear. Even on His agonising journey to Calvary, Jesus comforted the women of Jerusalem. The lesson to be learned here is that even in the midst of your own sufferings, you can still reach out to those in need.

## ***St Damien of Molokai***

Fr Damien was a saint who truly lived out the words of Jesus, "No



one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). He lived among lepers in the island of Molokai where the lepers were sent to be isolated from the rest of the society. He obtained permission from the bishop to go to the island to give selfless love and service to them. On his arrival on the island, his local bishop introduced him to the people by saying that he is "a father to you and loves you so much that he does not hesitate to become one of you, to live and die with you."

Jesus, who left His throne in heaven to come down to earth, was born in a manger and crucified like a criminal, had inspired Fr Damien to

“  
**HOW CAN I  
COMFORT  
SOMEONE  
ELSE WHEN  
I'M IN PAIN?**  
”

leave the comfort of his life and become one of the lepers just like Christ had become one of us. Fr Damien did all he could to make the lives of the lepers better. He washed their bodies and bandaged their wounds. He embraced them and showed them much love. He placed the Eucharist on their tongues and was to them a priest who was a true shepherd who loved his sheep. When Fr Damien caught leprosy, he accepted God's plan and wrote in a letter to his brother, "I make myself a leper with the lepers to gain all to Christ." So then, how much are we willing to love our brothers and sisters around us with the same selfless love as Christ?







# DON'T GIVE UP, GIVE IN



*Alex Heath from the UK, encourages the readers who are wrestling with doubts and fears to turn in faith to Jesus.*

**D**o you feel overwhelmed in some areas of your life? Perhaps you are experiencing difficulty in a relationship, in your studies or at work? Or maybe you have a health or financial concern? Maybe it is an area of faith where you are wrestling with doubts and fears? When we come to the end of our natural resources that's when faith can really kick in.

When the wine at the wedding at Cana ran out, Mary knew just what to do, she presented the need to her Son. As the model disciple, Mary is showing us the way. When the wine of our own resources runs out that is our opportunity to turn in faith to Jesus.

So don't give up, give in!

The Word of God is clear, it says "give in to God" (James 4:7), an alternative translation puts it this way "submit yourselves" to God. So if you are faced with what may appear to be an insurmountable challenge, don't give up, give in to God. We know that after Mary presented the need to Jesus, He demonstrated His Lordship by turning water into wine. As we submit to the Lordship of Jesus we too will see His glory revealed and how He really does save the best till last (John 2:1-11).

When my wife and I were planning to get married, we had a dilemma.



Through the mission work we had been involved in, we knew lots of people and were unsure about how many we could practically invite to our wedding. In the end we invited whoever wanted to come and as a result, over 300 people were expected. Having very little money we didn't know how we would cater for so many. As the date got nearer, we got very concerned (one person even suggested we ask a scout troop to cook sausages and beans for all the guests). Having no solution we simply entrusted it to the Lord.

Not long afterwards I met a Youth Pastor from a nearby Church. Before entering into ministry I discovered that he had been an upcoming trainee with a famous chef before receiving a direct call from the Lord to serve in ministry. When he heard about our need, he generously offered to cater for all our guests and source it all at cost price for us. It was a fantastic reception and many guests

commented on how wonderful the food was!

Like many people, I often prefer to be in control of my own life and solve my own problems- that

*When my wife  
and I were  
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dilemma.*

is my pride at work. During my third year at University, after some struggle, I gave my life to Jesus Christ in a very conscious and deliberate way. That was a key moment in my life where I surrendered personally to Jesus

Christ. I am so grateful for that decision which for me, ratified my baptism made many years before. Over the years since then I have learnt, and am still learning, how to surrender daily in the various situations and challenges that arise. I'm still learning not to give up but to give in- in the small as well as the big things in life.

Walking in the Holy Spirit means surrendering the control of our lives back to God, to whom it rightly belongs. Jesus is Lord! Every day, He is lovingly inviting each of us to surrender our lives and every detail of it to Him.

So don't give up, give in!

*Prayer : Jesus Christ, I proclaim you Lord of my whole life. I give you everything. I submit myself totally to you and God the Father's plan of love for my life. Help me to surrender to your loving Lordship each and every day and walk in the love, peace and power of your Holy Spirit.*



## Places from the Bible

### BETHANY

By Amy George



**B**ethany, a name derived from the Hebrew word Bet t'eina which means, "House of Figs", is said to be located in the south-eastern slope of the Mount of Olives, about two miles east-south-east of Jerusalem, on the road to Jericho. It was often visited by Christ. It is frequently mentioned in the Bible in connection with memorable incidents in the life of our Lord (Matthew 21:17; 26:6; Mark 11:11, 12; 14:3; John 11:1; 12:1).

It was the hometown of Jesus' beloved friends: Mary, Martha and Lazarus. It is the site where the tomb of Lazarus is located, where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead after three days. It is here that Jesus is anointed in expensive oil by Mary. Interestingly, from the midst of His disciples near this village which He loved, He ascended to heaven after His resurrection. "Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-51).

Today it goes by the name of al-Eizariya which means the place of Lazarus. It is a fairly run-down village. However, the tomb of Lazarus is on display along with many fig trees. Today it is a poor village of some twenty families.





# SPREADING THE GOSPEL OF LIFE



*Chris Da Silva, a pro-life campaigner from Australia, explains the need to create a culture of life in order to make abortion unthinkable.*

Growing up, my mum was always very open about a miscarriage she experienced before my sister or I were born. His name was Daniel, and he reached five months gestation before being called to his eternal reward. Knowing that in a perfect world I would have grown up with a big brother always gave me a sense of lack in my life, but far more powerful than that the knowledge of my brother's death before my existence sowed a seed of deep reverence for pre-born human life.

"I can't believe some people would do that on purpose," Mum said. It was not until several years

later that I realised she was talking about abortion.

As my Catholic faith deepened I was horrified to learn that abortion was happening around me - in my own home town. As I began to research I learned that worldwide just under fifty-million abortions take place annually. To put that into context, that accounts for about half of all deaths in the world each year. This were groundbreaking to me, and in light of the reverence for pre-born human life with which I grew up, I was devastated. In my heart I knew that God wanted me to play my part - however small that may be - in bringing this modern genocide to an end.

But where would I even begin? True, there was plenty of information online about abortion from all perspectives: medical, legal, psychological and so on. And of course there were

plenty of debates over the issue, on various channels of social media, but none of that could give me the reassurance that I was actually doing anything worthwhile in this David and Goliath battle, where I felt like David - except I had no idea how to use a slingshot!

That was when I heard of a pro-life pilgrimage that was happening in Australia for the first time: a prayerful walk from Brisbane to Melbourne called Crossroads. I applied immediately, and a few weeks later joined eleven other young people on a five-week journey down the beautiful East Coast of Australia witnessing to what Pope St John Paul II called The Gospel of Life. The walk included daily Mass, the full Rosary, and a lot of walking and talking. The experience was so transformative that I ended up doing the walk three more times, including once



in the USA. The people I met and the conversations I had during these walks had a strong and lasting impact on me. If nothing else they convinced me that God wants abortion to be unthinkable, and He is calling new labourers into His vineyard everyday to work for this cause.

After I finished university the next step of my pro-life adventure was as a missionary and founder with The Culture Project Australia; a Sydney-based initiative that focuses on sharing the truths of human dignity and sexual integrity with young people. I got to travel to classrooms and youth groups around Australia and witness young people opening their eyes, minds and hearts to the truth of abortion and how we need to create a culture of life in order to stop the genocide and make abortion unthinkable. While I am no longer a full time missionary, I am still working for the pro-life movement with the Australian Family Association.

### *What is a culture of life?*

One of the biggest lessons I have learned is that in the pro-life movement we can sometimes get caught up in what we are fighting against and in doing so we forget what we are fighting for. I have already mentioned the idea of making abortion unthinkable - a gargantuan task - so I find it hugely important to understand the ideal at which we are aiming. What do we have to change about the world in the next year so that the number of abortions decreases below fifty-million?

That is a question on which I could write a series of articles,

but I will begin by putting some questions to you: how can you influence the world around you to embrace the pro-life message? What can you say or do for a family member, a friend, your school, university or workplace? Do you need to be more bold in your conversations? Should you consider becoming a counsellor for women contemplating abortion? The answers to those questions are between you and God, but know that you have a role to play in creating a culture of

*In my heart I knew that God wanted me to play my part - however small that may be - in bringing this modern genocide to an end.*

life; a culture where each one of us is revered from the moment of conception and where we are each part of a community so supportive and so faithful that the idea of abortion would be unthinkable.

As you can see, a culture of life mirrors a culture that is centred on the Gospel - on Christ and His Church. So that is where you begin; you begin in prayer with God and with Our Lady. Meditate on Our Lady's pregnancy with Jesus and ask them genuinely, repetitively and patiently how you can play your part in making abortion unthinkable.

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## LET US RESCUE AN UNBORN BABY



*Toby Dinoop, a 12 year old boy from Melbourne, Australia, encourages the readers to pray for the unborn babies..*

I was reading Kingdom Revelator Magazine and came across an article which said, "every one of us could have been legally killed before we were born". I googled it and was horrified. I felt so sad to know that, people did these kind of things. It is unjust and so cruel. The womb is the safest place for a baby, but in abortion a womb is changed to a death bed. The question is why is this happening to an innocent baby? Where is the justice here? Imagine yourself in a dangerous situation. You can try to protect yourself by screaming for help and can run to escape. But can an unborn baby scream and run away to escape? They are so defenceless. So I googled for a prayer to prevent it from happening, and found this prayer:

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion." Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J Sheen

I have started suggesting this prayer to my friends to pray. Imagine how many lives we can save from abortion. Take a stand against abortion.

Babies in the womb don't deserve this, so join pro-life, let's 'choose adoption of an unborn, not abortion'. Also please pray! This baby who is at risk of abortion is counting on your prayers.

"BEFORE I FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB, I KNEW YOU." Jeremiah 1:5

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*'The Passion of the Christ', released in 2004 has been watched by millions around the world. Nevil George from the UK, takes a look at the man Jim Caviezel, who played the role of Christ in the movie.*



Jim Caviezel was born in Mount Vernon, Washington to Margret Lavery and James Caviezel. He grew up alongside his younger brother Timothy and three sisters, Ann, Amy and Erin. They were a strong Catholic family where faith played an integral part. He initially began his acting career by taking on minor roles in plays until eventually he began acting in mainstream movies with one of his earliest breakthrough roles being in a world war II film, The Thin Red Line.

However, Caviezel is most well known for his role as Jesus Christ in the award winning, critically acclaimed movie, The Passion of the Christ. Caviezel states this movie as being one that has "led him closer to the truth". Initially as he was offered the role of Jesus Christ in the movie, he was warned by director Mel Gibson that taking on this role would hurt his acting career. Despite this, Caviezel decided to take on the role stating that it was a once in a lifetime experience for him.

# THROUGH STARDOM TO LIGHT

It is fair to say that perhaps few actors has gone through as much suffering as Caviezel did during the time of filming. The cross that is seen in the movie weighs 150 pounds. During one of the takes Caviezel dislocated his shoulder carrying the cross due to its sheer weight, this injury was only first of many to come during the shoot. In the violent scene where Jesus is being scourged by the sadistic roman soldiers, Caviezel was tied up to a post with a board set up behind him that would take the impact of the whips.

Gibson at one point asked the actors, playing the soldiers to hurl their whips overhand. Due to the poor aim of the actor, Caviezel took a blow to his back from the whip. Caviezel states that the lashes hit him with such velocity that he could not breath, leaving a 14 inch bruise on his back. During the time of the shooting, he had to battle pneumonia and lung infection but perhaps the most significant event that occurred during the shooting was in the recreation of the sermon on the mount. Few seconds before the shooting of the scene, Caviezel was struck by lightning. The movies assistant director, Jan Michelini was about a 100 feet away from Caviezel when it occurred and he remembers seeing smoke come out of Caviezel's ears. However, thankfully Caviezel only suffered moderate injuries.

Caviezel often rose at two in the morning and spent up to eight hours in makeup in order to simulate the wounds, this included an eye swollen shut from the beating Jesus suffers, the injuries suffered from the crown of thorns and torn flesh from head to toe.

What is more intriguing is the personal preparation that Caviezel did in order to prepare for the movie. He reached deeply into his Catholic upbringing, Caviezel took the time to re-read the Gospels

**I DIDN'T WANT  
PEOPLE TO SEE  
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TO SEE THE  
CHRIST.**

**JIM CAVIEZEL**

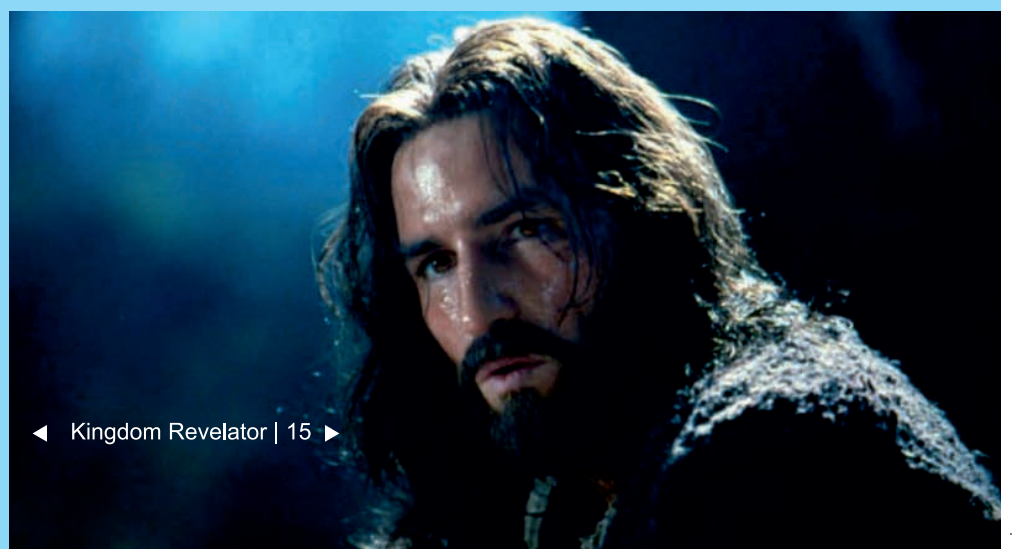
while also studying the writings of Christian mystics and other literature written about the final hours of Jesus. As part of his preparation, Caviezel spent time in prayer asking the Lord for guidance, especially during the stress of the crucifixion scenes. He began to realise and understand that the only way he was going to be able to fulfill the role was spending time in prayer from the heart. Caviezel states it is when he got this realisation that he began to hear the voice of God saying in his own words, 'Hey, don't you worry about it. Let me take care of it, and will you allow me to use you to play?' to which he said, 'All right, I'm going to let you perform, and I'm going to step out of the way.'

Perhaps what is most inspiring is

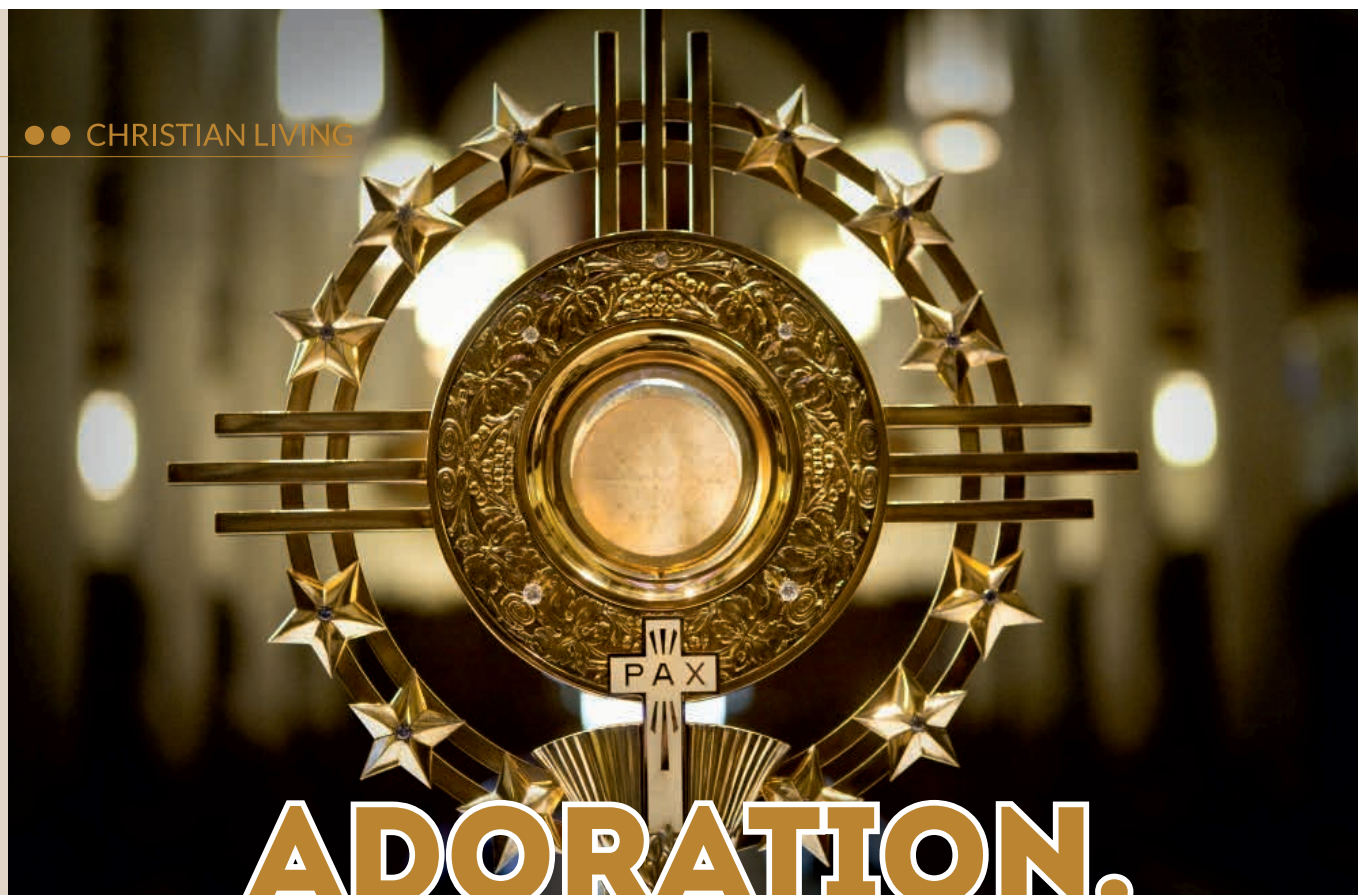
the fact that Caviezel wanted the audience who watched the film to look past the fact that it was merely an actor playing Jesus and see the person of Jesus Himself, he states "That was the key to this film. I didn't want people to see me. I just wanted them to see the Christ." Since the release of the movie, Caviezel has been a featured public speaker at various religious conferences. A sequel to the movie is reportedly in the works though not much details has been disclosed of it where Caviezel will again be taking on his role as Jesus Christ.

In 1996, Caviezel married Kerri Browitt and they have adopted three children from China who had cancer, saying, "They are people, just like we." He has expressed his reservations about doing intimate scenes in movies because it conflicted with his strong Catholic faith. About opposing to perform such scenes in movies, he says, "..... it's not just about my wife, although that's important. It's sin, pure and simple. I mean, it's wrong.... It's awkward."

Caviezel was featured in an advertisement opposing Missouri Constitutional Amendment 2, which allowed any form of embryonic stem cell research and therapy in Missouri. Caviezel also portrays the Apostle Luke in the film Paul, Apostle of Christ.







# ADORATION, A BLESSING

*Belinda Martinez  
from the United States, explains  
what she discovered when  
she went for adoration and  
how it transformed her life.*

**I** have called you by name; you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1). Imagine yourself in the presence of Jesus Christ and being able to speak with him. Well, this is what Adoration is for me.

Our parish, St Faustina Catholic Church, has a chapel called 'The Upper Room', named after the place where Jesus held the last supper. We believe that the Holy Eucharist is Jesus Christ- "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread

that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51). Therefore, when the holy Eucharist is placed in a monstrance, we are truly in the presence of Jesus Christ.

My first visit to the chapel, for Adoration, did not go quite as planned. I thought this would be a great place for me to pray to Him, so I entered the chapel, looked

directly at the Blessed Eucharist, genuflected, took a seat and recited the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Apostle's Creed. It seemed like I had run out of prayers to say and thought to myself, why didn't I have enough prayers memorised? I felt like a fake. Before this, I considered myself a good Catholic; I said my prayers, attended church on Sundays and followed the Ten Commandments, but this was just so embarrassing.

That same week I went to the Catholic book store and looked for information to guide me through my Adoration journey. I discovered that Adoration is a very personal matter - I could read a bible verse and meditate on it, recite the Holy Rosary, read a book about my favourite Saint, or just sit and admire Him. I discovered that there are no specific rules; after all, it was my journey with Jesus Christ.

*I am grateful  
that I found  
Adoration  
because it has  
changed my life  
completely.*



The next time I went to Adoration, I laughed at myself and thought, Oh, what an amateur you are, why had I even worried. Christ had the answer all along; all I needed was to be in His presence like a child who is happy to just sit close to a loved one. I opened my heart and soul to Jesus Christ and asked Him to guide me. Suddenly, I began seeing people's faces rushing into my mind like a slideshow. I felt a sincere desire to pray for each of them. I had a special prayer for each one to address a specific dilemma, challenge, or spiritual battle that I had become aware they were facing. Before I knew it, the hour and fifteen minutes were up and it was time for Benediction. As I left the chapel that evening I felt such an inner peace and a closeness to God that I had never felt before.

I have continued my journey in the Upper Room Ministry and must say that this experience has transformed my life. I now find myself genuinely listening to everyone I speak with and very often they end up sharing their life's struggles with me. I know that the Lord has opened my heart to embrace theirs. With a smile on my face, I gladly tell each person, "I will pray for you." And I do.

I cannot express the countless blessings that Jesus Christ has bestowed on my family, my friends, and acquaintances. All I had to do was truly listen to the words He planted in my soul. My prayer is to be constantly in God's grace and do what I can to help ease someone's suffering as only faith and prayer can.

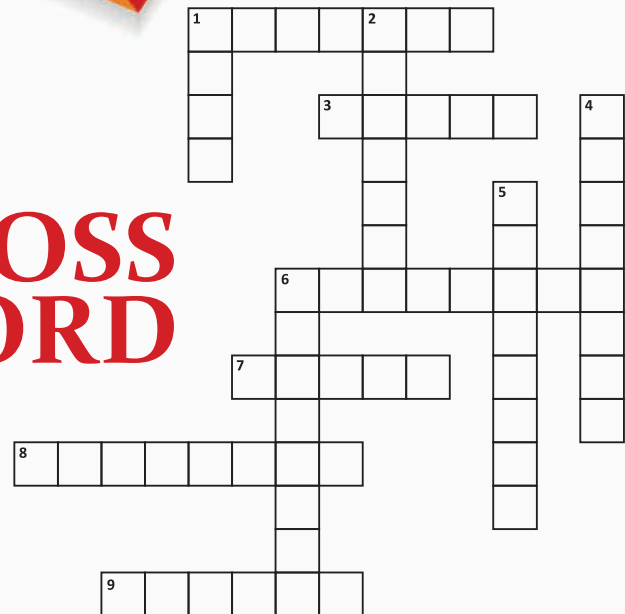
I see Adoration as a blessing, Jesus suffered so deeply in order to give us this gift. I am grateful that I found Adoration because it has changed my life completely. I want to shout from the rooftops to my friends: Go to Adoration! You see, like me, you are a vessel for God's work and in-turn you will receive His ultimate blessings. I tell them: If you feel you're not ready to go to Adoration—get ready and go anyway! If you feel you don't have the time, at least find an hour! If you're like me and don't know what to do, don't worry, He will help you!



KINGDOM

## REVELATOR

### CROSS WORD



#### Across

1. John the Baptist ate this insect in the desert.
3. In the New Jerusalem described in Revelation, what are the twelve gates made from?
6. What tribe is Paul from?
7. Most of the New Testament was originally written in this language.
8. The high priest of Jerusalem who put Jesus on trial.
9. The first person to come upon the injured man in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

#### Down

1. Which Gospel is written by a doctor?
2. The first Christian martyr in Acts of the Apostles?
4. What does the word gospel mean?
5. Saul was travelling to this city when he encountered a great and blinding light.
6. Who went with Paul on his first missionary journey?

# MEET THE APOSTLES SAINT JOHN

Series by Alvina Benny.

St John, the brother of James (son of Zebedee) was Jesus' beloved disciple and He named these brothers the Sons of Thunder.

Jesus called these brothers to follow Him and be His disciples while they were fishing with their father.

John, his brother James and Simon Peter were the only disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus.

He is believed to be the disciple who inquires about the betrayer of Jesus during the last supper and enters the residence of the high priest along with Simon Peter during the trial of Jesus.

St. John is the author of the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation.

The feast of St John is celebrated on the 27th of December and he is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors.

Jesus entrusted His mother, Mary to this beloved disciple, who accepted her in his house and they lived in Ephesus for a few years.

He is the only disciple of Jesus who was not martyred but died a natural death.

After the death of the emperor Domitian, St John returned to Ephesus and lived there while traveling to Asia Minor to spread the Gospel.

Subsequently he was exiled to the Island of Patmos where he wrote the Book of Revelation.

After spending several years in Ephesus preaching the Good News, he was accused for being an asserter of false doctrine and impiety before the emperor Domitian, who had him thrown into hot oil as a punishment.

St John established the first Christian community in Ephesus.

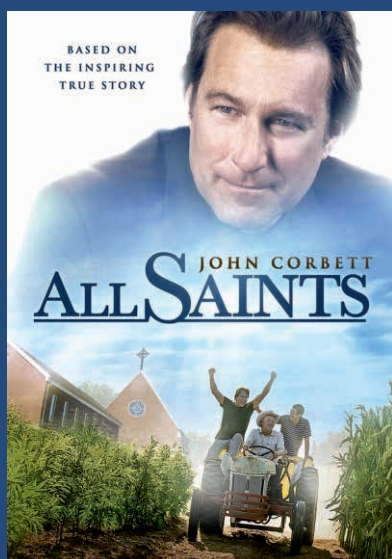
St John along with Peter went to Asia Minor (Anatolia) to spread Gospel.



**CROSSWORD**  
ANSWERS

Across : 1. Locusts 3. Pearl 6. Benjamin 7. Greek 8. Caiaphas 9. Priest  
Down : 1. Luke 2. Stephen 4. Goodnews 5. Damascus 6. Barnabas





## FILM – ALL SAINTS 2017

When Pastor Michael Spurlock moved into his new church, the only duty he has is to sell the already dwindling parish that only has two things in plenty; nearly empty pews and over running costs. But God has different plans. With the arrival of Burmese refugees and a personal divine revelation, Pastor Spurlock sets out his new plan to “grow” the church – quite literally.

## SONG – THE RIVER BY JORDAN FELIZ

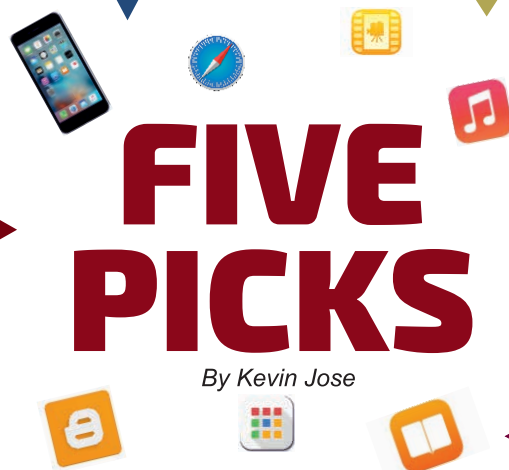


**busted  
halo** faith  
shared  
joyfully

## BLOG – BUSTED HALO

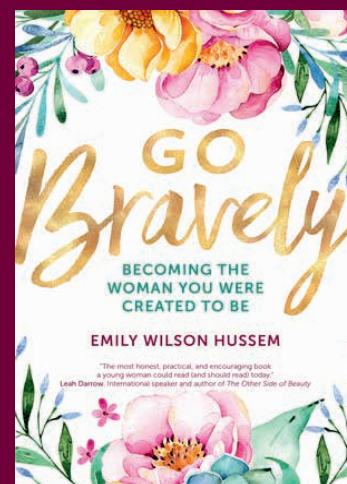
<https://bustedhalo.com>

Busted Halo is a joyful online destination that uses variety of media sources to help people understand, practise and share their Catholic faith. In articles, videos, podcasts, radio and social media, the site aims to bring the Joy of the Gospel to millions around the world in an innovative and creative way.



## APP – CONFESSION: A ROMAN CATHOLIC APP

This is an excellent app for every penitent to be used in the confessional. Password protected profiles, step-by-step guide to the Sacrament, personalised (based on age, sex and vocation) examination of conscience using the Commandments will almost; definitely help if not elevate the preparation and participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



## BOOK – ‘GO BRAVELY’ BY EMILY WILSON HUSSEM

It can be very hard to live in these current times as a young Christian. With insecurities, fears and tremendous pressure from the society, it can really be a struggle. Emily Wilson Hussem, a Catholic musician and speaker shares her tips on how she tackled all the above. From relationships to self-esteem, faith, friendships and work, this book will aid you with your deepest concerns as a young Christian.



*Treasa Powathil from New York, shares the story of St Joseph of Cupertino, the flying saint.*

Among the glittering volumes of saints with remarkable intelligence, noble status and divine foresight, lies the story of St Joseph of Cupertino. Dull, irritable and sickly, Joseph was painfully aware of his flaws. It took a chance encounter with a begging friar during his adolescence for Joseph to find that he could employ himself, limited as he was, for something beautiful: the priesthood. The brilliant course of redemption, divine triumph and eventual sainthood that ensued in Joseph's life is one that should give us comfort because if he could do it, there's no doubt that we can too.

### **Early Life**

Joseph was born in the Italian city of Cupertino where he spent most of his childhood and adolescence. His family struggled to make ends meet; in fact, at the time of Joseph's birth, his house was being turned over to the bailiffs. Poverty was just one of the problems with which the young Joseph struggled. Joseph was constantly prone to disease, a vulnerability only exacerbated by his malnourishment at home. At school, Joseph was absent-minded, awkward, and nervous; he could never finish his thoughts and dropped his books at the sound of the church bells. His own mother saw him as nothing more than a burden. It was because of these many issues that Joseph resigned himself at a young age as a good-for-nothing, a child with



# IT'S ONLY UP FROM HERE



nothing beneficial to contribute to the world.

### **Turning Point**

Everything changed when a begging friar stopped by Joseph's village when Joseph was 17 years old. The friar's visit sparked an idea in Joseph's head. Though incompetent in most activities, Joseph had the utmost confidence in his ability to beg. Plus, the monastic life, with all of its mysticism and isolation, intrigued Joseph. He decided then to become a friar. However, Joseph's childhood faults continued to obstruct his efforts to join a monastery; one by one, each shut their door to the simple young man.

Eventually (with the help of his exasperated mother), Joseph was welcomed into the Franciscan community, not as a friar, but rather as the lowly keeper of the monastery mule. As time passed, however, the friars began to notice Joseph's simplicity, gratitude, and willingness to serve. Gradually Joseph was allowed into the Order, where he studied first for the diaconate. Joseph's intellectual deficiencies proved to be ever intact as he struggled through his studies. Fortunately, during his test, the Bishop asked him to explain the one verse he knew well. Later, during his test for the priesthood, the Bishop cut the examination short and did not ask Joseph any questions before ordaining him. It seemed God had found a way for Joseph to make it to the priesthood despite his short comings.

### **Priestly Work**

Joseph's absent-mindedness followed him into the monastic life, often causing him to forget parts of his habit. However, it was his humility that characterised him from the start; he never

thought himself too esteemed to do the dirty work in the monastery, often calling himself "Brother Ass". Joseph's humility was perfected in his prayer where he employed various forms of mortification as penance.

Even his absent-mindedness had all along been due in part to his recurring visions during his everyday life, a gift the Holy Spirit continued to shower among him

*By many trials, temptations and weaknesses, God makes known that He can make of anyone, in any situation, a great saint.*

in the monastery. Joseph often found himself interacting with God and receiving visions during his time as a priest. It was during these visitations that Joseph commonly exhibited his most well-known miracle: levitation. During what is known as an ecstasy, Joseph would rise up from the ground at the smallest of inspirations and levitate in the air. During the Holy Mass he could be seen flying to the altar; at a special festival, he gravitated to a shrine. Joseph became a vessel for God's miracles in many other places and in many other (and often humorous) ways. For example, Joseph once had a herd of sheep recite the litany with him (in which Joseph would say "Kyrie eleison" and the sheep would

respond "Baaa", until the litany was finished).

### **Trials and Triumph**

As his miracles increased, Joseph began to receive accusations. Many could not understand why this man, with such obvious faults, had been given the capacity to perform such amazing works. Deemed an impostor, Joseph was sent to the Vicar General who concurred with the public's opinion and brought him to trial before the inquisitors at Naples. Nothing could be proved against Joseph, nevertheless, he was removed from his monastery and sent to a Capuchin convent where he was forced to live in strict solitude. Joseph bore the sentence in characteristic humility, kissing the Inquisitor's feet and getting into his carriage with a smile.

During his de facto imprisonment, Joseph continued to have the very experiences that the public deemed incredulous. While still in his secluded state, Joseph knew of the deaths of two popes (Urban VIII and Innocent X). He could also, with terrifying accuracy, read the minds of his fellow friars. Though Joseph was eventually allowed to return to his own Conventuals, he continued to live in a cell isolated from the community. The regulations put upon him were stricter than before; he could only celebrate Holy Mass in a little chapel away from the others, so as not to disrupt everyone with his increasingly frequent ecstasies. Joseph lived in this state until he was finally welcomed into God's embrace at the age of 60. Through Joseph's life, marked as it was by many trials, temptations and weaknesses, God makes known that He can make of anyone, in any situation, a great saint.

••••

'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.' Luke 6:38



# معلن الملكوت

## مجلة الشباب المسيحية

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# POPE'S *Voice*

*Abortion isn't a lesser evil, it's a crime. Taking one life to save another, that's what the Mafia does. It's a crime. It's an absolute evil.*

Pope Francis

## GLOBAL CATHOLIC NEWS

Compiled by Smitha George

### POPE FRANCIS DECLARED DEATH PENALTY 'INADMISSIBLE'



Vatican: Pope Francis has announced changes to the Catechism of the Catholic Church to declare the death penalty no longer admissible under any circumstances. Pope said executions were unacceptable in all cases because they are “an attack” on human dignity. He added that the church would work “with determination” to abolish capital punishment worldwide. The Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church is the book of doctrine that is taught to Catholic children worldwide and studied by adults in a church with 1.2 billion members.

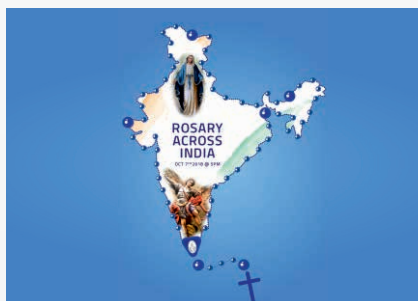
### RELIGIOUS PEOPLE LIVE FOUR YEARS LONGER



Dallas: Research conducted by a team of Ohio University academics has found religious people live an average four years longer than their agnostic and atheist peers. The team analysed more than 1,500 obituaries from across the US to piece together how the defining features of our lives affect our longevity. Religious people are more likely to abstain from alcohol and drug use and other behaviour that could affect life expectancy.

### 'ROSARY ACROSS INDIA' TO BE CELEBRATED IN OCTOBER

Mumbai: 'Rosary Across India' will be held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018 at 5pm, on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Rosary is to be prayed in churches, associations, pro-life groups, local communities near the coasts and all across India. This will be accompanied by processions and local gatherings. The rosary will be dedicated for the following intentions: all Indians, priests and religious, reparation of sins, restoration of the values of life and sanctity of family.



### CHINA FORCES CHURCHES TO REPLACE CRUCIFIX



Beijing: Churches across China are facing increased pressure to align with the Communist Party. Persecution watchdog, China Aid, reports that all churches in Xinyu County, Jiangxi have been ordered to display the national flag instead of a crucifix as well as Chinese President Xi Jinping's picture and posters on socialist values. Additionally, children in the area have been forbidden from attending church, and the government has threatened to cancel the welfare of low-income residents should they refuse to comply.

### THE REMOTE CHURCHES OF ANTARCTICA



Livingston: Chapel of Our Lady of the Snow, at Belgrano II Base, is a cave church with walls made of ice in the southernmost place of worship in the world and the permanent Catholic Church for an all-year round

Argentinian team. Chilean Chapel of Santa Maria Reina de la Paz, is made from shipping containers. The icy barren landscape that fills much of Antarctica is the most remote and harshest place on earth. But even in this harsh terrain, the explorers and scientists still find time to prioritise their faith.

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CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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**“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Mathew 5:16)**



***The world and the church need you to be beacons of light  
for the journey of the men and women of our time.  
This should be your prophetic witness. (Pope Francis)***

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