Spirituality and Steadiness : *Fr.Ronald Rolheiser OMI*

Something in us is dissatisfied with the ordinary. There's something in the ordinary that can have us think that predictable routines, domestic rhythms, and commitment to duty can weigh us down, swallow us up, and anchor us outside the more rewarding waters of passion, romance, creativity, dance, and celebration.

We often vilify the ordinary. I remember a young woman, a student of mine, who shared in class that her greatest fear in life was to succumb to the ordinary, "to end up content, a little housewife and mother, *happily doing laundry commercials!"*

If you're an artist or have an artistic temperament, you're prone to this kind of feeling. That's one of the propensities of an artist. Doris Lessing, for example, once made the comment that George Eliot could have been a better writer "if she hadn't been so moral." What Lessing is suggesting is that Eliot kept herself too anchored in the ordinary, too safe, too secure, too far from the edges.

Kathleen Norris, in her biographical work *The Virgin of Bennington*, shares how as a young writer she fell victim to this kind of ideology: "Artists, I believed were much too serious to live sane and normal lives. Driven by inexorable forces in an uncaring world, they were destined for an inevitable, sometimes deadly, but always ennobling wrestle with gloom and doom."

An ennobling wrestle with gloom and doom! That does have a seductive sound to it, particularly for those of us who fancy ourselves as artistic, intellectual, or spiritual. That's why on a given day any of us can feel a certain condescending pity for those who achieve simple happiness. Easy for them, we think, but they're selling themselves short! That's the artist inside of us speaking. You've never seen an artist doing a laundry commercial!

Don't get me wrong. Not all of this is bad. Jesus, himself, said that we do not live by bread alone. No artist needs that explained. He or she knows that safe routine, dram duty, and a mortgage that's been paid, alone do not necessarily make for heaven. We need bread, but we also need beauty, colour, and celebration.

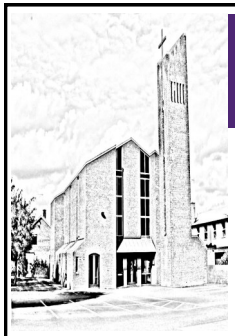
Doris Lessing, who was a great artist, joined the communist party as a young woman but later left it after she'd matured. Why did she leave? One phrase says it all. She left the communist party, she says, "*because they didn't believe in colour!"* Life, Jesus assures us, is not meant to be lived in black and white, that is, as simply an endless cycle of rising, showering, going off to work, responsibly doing a job, coming home, having supper, getting things set for the next day, and then going back to bed. And yet, there is much to be said for that seemingly dram routine. The rhythm of the ordinary is, in the end, the deepest wellspring from which to draw joy and meaning. Kathleen Norris, after telling us about her youthful temptation to side-step the ordinary to engage in the more ennobling battle with gloom and doom, shares how a wonderful mentor, Betty Kray, helped steer her clear of that pitfall. Kray encouraged her to write out of her joy as well as her gloom and to "dismiss the romance of insanity as a sham." As Norris puts it: "She tried hard to convince me of what her friends who had been institutionalized for madness knew all too well: that the clean simple appreciation of ordinary, daily things is a treasure like none on earth."

Sometimes a different mentor teaches us this. When we regain our health and energy after having been ill, off work, and out of our normal routines and rhythms, nothing is as sweet as returning to the ordinary – our work, our routine, the normal stuff of everyday life. Only after it has been taken away and then given back, do we realize that the clean, simple appreciation of daily things is the ultimate treasure.

Artists, though, are still partially right. The ordinary can weigh us down, and keep us outside the deeper waters of creativity, of romance, of colour, and of the wildness that lets us dance. But, that being admitted, anchors and weight also have a positive function. They keep us from being swept away. They anchor our sanity. They keep us steady. The rhythm of the ordinary is perhaps the most powerful anchor of all to hold us in sanity. Paul Simon, in a 1970s song entitled, *An American Tune,* sings about coping with confusion, mistakes, betrayal, and other events that shatter our innocence. And he ends that rather sad ballad quite peacefully with the words: *"Still tomorrow's gonna be another working day, and I'm trying to get some rest. That's all I'm trying, is to get some rest."*

Obedience to that imperative helps anchor our sanity. There's much to be said about being a contented, ordinary person, anchored in the rhythms of the ordinary, trying at the end of the workday to get some rest.

Pob Bendith. God bless you&Keep you. Fr Pius CMI



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16th August 2026 Assumption of Mary

LITURGY OF THE WEEK: Psalter Week IV

Livestreaming (From Mold on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays 5.30pm & Sundays 11am)
https://www.churchservices.tv/mold

Confessions (in Mold) On Saturdays and Sundays before the Mass (Saturdays **5pm** to **5.20** and Sundays **10.30am** to **10.50**). Weekdays after the Mass, on Request.

15th August Saturday 5.30pm
Susan Nevin RIP *(John Nevin)*
Int. Joshua and Bethany Jones *(Linda Jones)*

16th August Sunday 11am
Int. Margaret and Mike Bunting *(Michael Cresswell)*

Monday 17th Aug — Liturgy of the day **Buckley 9am**

Tuesday: 18th Aug — Liturgy of the day **Mold at 7pm Rosary** 6.35pm
Thomas and Margaret Atherton RIP *(Terrence Atherton)*

Wednesday: Buckley 7pm 19th Aug — Chaozhu Lin RIP *(Yaming Lin)*

Thursday 20th Aug — Liturgy of the day **Buckley 9am**

Friday 21st Aug — **St. Pius X, Pope 10am**
Int.Harry Welsh *(Michael Cresswell)*

QR Code To Donate

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time A

22nd August Sat 5.30pm
Fr. Paschal Burlinton OFM RIP *(Sue Hogg)*
Margaret Wright RIP *(Brenda Beattie)*

23rd August Sun 11am
Patrick Oliver RIP *(Maureen & Roland Allman)*

FAITH IN FOCUS:

MARY'S CREDENTIALS

The feast of the Assumption proclaims that at the end of her life on earth Mary was taken up body and soul to heaven to be rewarded for her lifetime of faithfulness in serving God by bearing his only Son, Jesus of Nazareth who was the Christ of God.

We call Mary "full of grace" or the "highly favoured one". What qualified her to be shown such favour by God?

Mary was a girl who would not have stood out from the crowd. We could almost call her a nobody, in the best sense of the word. She was a teenager getting on with her life in a backwater village in the Middle East. As far as we know she had no special qualifications. It is more than likely that she couldn't read and that like most girls at the time she would have busied herself with taking care of the household, waiting for the day when her wedding would take place to the man her family had arranged for her to marry. Did she have what was necessary for God's plan?

She was humbled and troubled when the angel Gabriel visited her. Yet she was open to what God was asking of her, even though she didn't fully understand how it could be. Her humility shines out in her song, the Magnificat. And so does her praise. For when she had listened to what the angel had to say, her immediate reaction was to praise God for using her in this extraordinary way.

If we are to follow the pattern Mary has set us as a model of faith then we can learn much from the way she behaves. Are we open and attentive to what God is asking of us in our lives? How do we listen to God? How do we know what's being asked of us? Do we let our false humility get in the way of serving God or do we make ourselves available so that God can work through us, doing far more than our own efforts can achieve?

And do we praise God for the graces that we constantly receive or do we see our life as simply the unfurling of fate? Mary is given to us as a model of worship with her hymn of praise to God. Our prayer today is that where she has gone we may one day follow.

QR Code for Today's Readings.

News, Notices and Events

Sponsored Strictly Dance Challenge

I'm taking part in a sponsored Strictly-style dance challenge to **raise funds for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd**, a cause very close to my heart. If you would like to support me, please scan the QR code to read my story and make a donation. Any support, big or small, would be hugely appreciated. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. ***Anna Walsh***

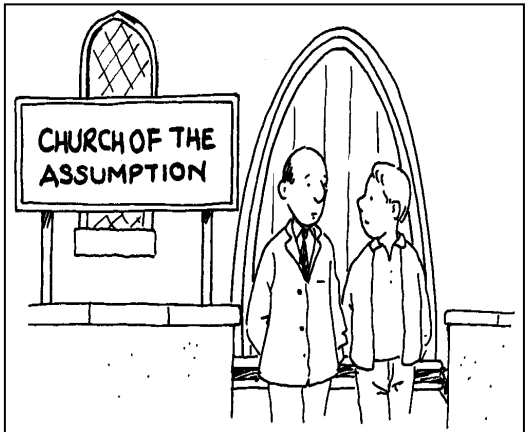
We remember in our prayer

Those whose anniversaries Occur this week

Butterworth (**15th Aug**) Mary Geraghty, William Parry , Thomas Finn, George Dykes, Mary Byard(**16th Aug**) Katie Jones, (**17th Aug**) Greta Garnham, David Williams (**18th Aug**) Charles William Kunstle, Thomas Hayes, Pauline Hazlehurst, Harry Morris (**19th Aug**) Thomas James Fox, Thomas Murphy, Sarah Walsh, John Edwin Jones, Allen George Tyson (**20th Aug**) James Jones

Let us Pray for the sick:

Teresa Carberry, Oliver, John Hughes, Terry Wilson, Chris Jeffrey, Pat Southall, Pam Cox, and Franciszek Williams



"The new priest is very suited to this place. He takes a lot for granted."

Patrick Oliver RIP

Requiem Mass for Patrick Oliver will take place here on **3rd September Thursday at 11am**, followed by committal in Mold cemetery. Patrick will be received into the church on 2nd September Wednesday at 5pm.

Dona Card Reader

"The Dona Card reader in the church porch has had a 'firmware update' and part of this process meant that the cache and storage was wiped so that all previous information has been lost.

Can we kindly ask donors to resubmit their names and postcodes so that their donations can Gift Aided as before.

We appreciate that this is a pain to have to do this again but your efforts would be greatly appreciated. This will also have to be redone if your bank give you a new debit or credit card

Ask if you need any help"

Mike Bunting

Bank Standing order

If you would like to help the parish this way and you can arrange internet banking, then the details are:

Bank: NatWest , (Wrexham Branch, 33, Lord Street, Wrexham, LL11 1LP)
Sort Code: 55-81-42
Account: 08120986
Account name: Mold Parish Account

Jubilee Celebrations on 2nd Oct 6pm

Silver Jubilee of Canon Doyle's Ordination and Silver Jubilee of Our Lady of the Rosary Church will take place on 2nd October Friday at 6pm (at OLR Buckley)