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Welcome to Father Vlad's Newsletter!

I will be glad to stay in touch with you for updates and special seasonal messages, but if you prefer not to receive these messages, please unsubscribe below. Thank you.

www.fathervlad.com

I pray
That
No matter
how grim
the world may be
This Christmas
Will warm your heart
enhance your hope
And
express your gratitude
For what you have
As it does
for me.

X
Vladimir



Homilies

Third Sunday of Advent - 17th December 2023

As John was a witness to speak for the light, thanks to our baptism, one role we have in our life is to help our colleagues and allies in life to "believe in Christ".

Attached to my computer in Vaughan House I have a quote by Frederick Nietzsche, "I might believe in the redeemer if his followers looked more redeemed." It reminds me that I should show I live in hope and never be a grump.

When I was young, priests used the stick of "life in hell after death if you misbehave." I prefer the carrot. Living the ten commandments and eight beatitudes makes life even now here on earth much finer and more fun. A bit like tough-time in a gym makes you feel fitter and happier.

Though our world is like a chessboard - with black and white experiences - I concentrate on the white, not the black. The media does the opposite. Good news is poor news. Bad news like wars - and there are many in Africa that do not get even a mention - and poor politicians that do not live Gospel values, are in abundant supply.

Not surprisingly, even many Christians are gloomy and do not speak for the light. All too many priests are embarrassed by their vocation and do not wear their collars.

True, I occasionally get insulted for being a cleric, but then Jesus was not comprehensively popular. An occasional insult is light years from the passion and death of my best friend, Jesus

One of the sweetest sentences Jesus spoke can be found in John 15,15: "I call you friends"

Bearing that in my heart makes me - it seems - a witness to speak for the light." I'll leave it to you decide whether this is true.

Second Sunday of Advent - 10th December 2023

"The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God."

The Good News, is the Gospel, Latin evangelium, from Greek euangelion 'good news'. After the double vowel 'oo' was shortened in Old English to 'o', people thought it was 'God's news.' It is God's and it is good!

Good news is no news, for so many – who end up self-destructive or even suicidal.

Jesus, the Christ. You may have noticed how, when I pronounce those two words, I pause between "Jesus" And "Christ".

I do that to emphasise the role of Jesus. During my many years as director of school chaplains, all too many times, speaking with primary school children and asking them the name of the family of Jesus, I was told it was Christ. Joseph Christ, Mary Christ Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the translation of God into our human vernacular. In John's Gospel, he is called The Word. He tells how God sees us, how God values us, how God loves us.

Though Charles Wesley (d 1788) wrote "gentle Jesus, meek and mild" the Gospels only describe the one instrument Jesus actually made was "a whip from some cord" (Jn 2, 15).

The good news is that Jesus is, as we discover after the resurrection, God.

Getting to know Jesus, you get to know God.

God sees our past as a rehearsal for the present. Just think how he speaks to the Good Thief on Calvary. How he forgives Peter in the final chapter of John's gospel.

Jesus infuses me with hope.

How much time will you spend the last weeks of this advent getting to know the real Jesus and thus God?

A Journey to Eternity

All, three parts of my memories "A Journey to Eternity" are now available. If you are interested, just email me at:

Vladimirfelzmann@rcdow.org.uk or msgrvladimir.felzmann@gmail.com

and copies will be on their way to you, they put some flesh on what there is in my Biography.

A Journey to Eternity
The early years: 1939-59

£3.00 ALL SQUARED

A Journey to Eternity
My Years in Opus Dei: 1959 - 1982

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A Journey to Eternity
The Later Years: 1982 onwards; forever upwards

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Professor Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann (aka Father Vlad)

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UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY
Restoring your faith in the news

Father Vlad latest column on **The Universe Catholic Weekly**:
[The Universe Catholic - 15th December 2023 - Gift, fearlessness and courage](#)

RADIO MARIA ENGLAND

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

Father Vlad's Blog

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new Blog on Father Vlad's website, please visit: [Father Vlad Blog](#)

Recent Blogs: [Advent 2023 Musings](#)

A handbook for life in an accelerating world

Life Squared

By Vladimir Felzmann

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

[download the introduction to Life Squared](#)

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



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