

# Book Review

## Every Day is New by Michael McGirr

Reviewed by Mark Needham

McGirr's book offers reflections on the gospel reading for weekdays in Ordinary Time. Its layout is simple - a brief overview of the week's readings, a visual of graffiti or street art, a short reflection on each day's gospel and a short prayer for each week. In this regard, it is very good for people who are time-poor with very little reading each day.

His Introduction and Ways to use the book are at once informative and somewhat provocative. Essentially, though, McGirr is constantly encouraging and inviting the reader/user to be curious and to use our imagination and to be open to ways in which God may be speaking into their own life experience. For example, he says, "there is something profound about the very experience of ordinariness" (p.2). ordinariness that may not be the ordinary. In week 3, he quotes a sign posted near Mary MacKillop's birthplace. It says, "please be awesome." McGirr goes on to say, "it's also an invitation: to truly be oneself is to inspire awe in others." It reminds me of Eckhart Tolle's emphasis in "The Power of Now" to live the present moment because that's all we can ever live. McGirr also says "Happiness is about the experience of hope in the present moment, not about loading up a credit card to pay off in the future." (p.94)

On other quote to hopefully whet your appetite. It comes from Thursday of week 16 "Jesus explained that he used parables because the life of faith is full of mysteries. The use of imagination and stories help us to explore those mysteries and understand with our hearts. Many saints were people of rich imagination and wonderful dreams. We, too, should enjoy the adventure of faith, often without knowing all the answers."(p.66) I think it was John Shea who said "God created human because God loves telling stories", stories like each of us.

This book is easy to read and use in short daily bursts but extremely rich in what it offers us as we journey through our lives in faith.

