

SUNDAY PLUS

See differently



Our mission from God

by Fr Royston Price C.Ss.R.

In the Gospel today, we hear about Jesus restoring hearing and speech to a man. What Christ does physically in the reading he does spiritually to each one of us. This healing is an image of how he acts in our soul. In our encounter with the Lord we're able to


hear the living Word of God, and let it take deep roots in our heart. We can find the inner courage to announce the Good News and the prudence to know how best to go about it. Each of us has some mission from God, some way of making Jesus present and known in our context, even if it is unobtrusively loving and praying for our neighbours, family and friends.

When we live out our Christian life knowing that we have encountered Christ, that he is dwelling and working within us, then we can achieve a sense of tranquil confidence. We may not have grand eloquence or rhetorical flair, but in living out our

faith day-to-day we are preaching a far more powerful sermon, one that others certainly notice.

Only in heaven will we find out exactly how our prayers, life and actions have influenced those around you and made the love of God present. United to Christ, he is with us in our home, at work and at leisure, and we are bringing him to everyone we meet. When that's the case, then just like in the Gospel, the Kingdom of God spreads far and wide, even without our conscious effort.

Fr Royston Price, a recently ordained priest, is the Vocations Director for the Redemptorist London Province.

Loving Lord, help me to see my life through your eyes and to accept the mission you have given me, to tell everyone just how much you love us. Help me to listen with your ears, to the unspoken words which might allow me to support the people around me.  Amen.

Suffering in silence

By Katie Knight

At the scene of an accident, those casualties who are the most in need of urgent care and attention are those who are still and silent. If someone is making a great deal of noise, then they can safely be left for a while until after the neediest have received the appropriate attention.

A young lad in his late teens recently tripped over a tree root and fell to the ground, where he made a great show of his trauma. Within seconds five girls of about his own age surrounded him, all offering copious advice and moral support. The only injury had been to his vanity – a hurt which the girls quickly soothed – and he soon continued jauntily on his way.

What about those people who suffer in silence, perhaps afraid to ask for help, perhaps reluctant to “make a fuss”? Do we notice them? Do we look more deeply, see things differently? What would Jesus have done?

Katie Knight is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Feast of the week
Wednesday 8 September

Our Lady's birthday

We all like birthdays. They are an occasion for families and friends to tell us, “I'm glad that you were born!” Birthdays help us to feel special and loved.

Of course we don't know the actual date of Our Lady's birthday. Even the names of her parents, Joachim and Ann, have come down to us via a longstanding tradition which might or might not be accurate.

Family birthdays are particularly important. Just as our parents wanted

to make our own birthday happy, special and memorable, so did we, even as small children, go out of our way to do something extraordinary for them. Don't we all remember the laughter and secrecy as we wrote a card and wrapped a present?

So why do we celebrate Our Lady's birthday?

Might there be something deep within our hearts which says to her, “I'm glad that you were born!”

To celebrate Our Lady's birthday is a simple way of saying “Thank you” and “I love you”.

“People are looking for someone to listen to them. Someone willing to grant them time, to listen to their dramas and difficulties. This is what I call the ‘apostolate of the ear’ and it is important. Very important. I feel compelled to say to confessors: talk, listen with patience, and above all tell people that God loves them.”

Pope Francis

Today:
Isaiah 35:4-7
James 2:1-5
Mark 7:31-37

Monday:
Colossians 1:24 – 2:3
Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday:
Colossians 2:6-15
Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday:
Micah 5:1-4
or Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

Thursday:
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 6:27-38

Friday:
1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14
Luke 6:39-42

Saturday:
1 Timothy 1:15-17
Luke 6:43-49

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 50:5-9
James 2:14-18
Mark 8:27-35