SUNDAY PLUS

Keep looking

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Introducing people to Jesus

by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

In today's Gospel we see John the Baptist introducing two of his own disciples to Jesus: in doing this he introduces them to their new future. The disciples follow Jesus and stay with him. John points away from himself to the Christ – that is his role. In the fourth Gospel this man sent by God runs the first introduction agency for those on the lookout for the Messiah.

Andrew is one of the two disciples. He leaves his master, John, to follow in the footsteps of his new master, Jesus. He needs John the Baptist to point him in the right direction, to make a new start. And what John the Baptist did for Andrew, Andrew does for his brother, Simon. He shares his experience with Simon, tells him that he has met the Christ, and introduces him to Jesus.

Before we meet Jesus, first we meet a litany of other people. We all come to Jesus by way of generations of Christians who shared their experience of Jesus, people who were themselves introduced to Jesus by others. Thus the story of Christianity is a story of a great chain of witnesses linked through the apostles to Jesus himself.

Of course we have to play our own part in introducing others to Jesus. We don't have to be great missionaries to do this; if we believe that Jesus is worth knowing, we will bring others into his loving presence by our quiet witness. In that way the Christian faith grows and there will never be an end to it. Because somewhere, someone like the apostle Andrew will be bringing another person to meet Jesus of Nazareth.

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, www.rpbooks.co.uk.

A daily search

by Lucy Russell

St Oscar Romero said, "Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent result of violent repression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty." In the year gone by, which marked the fortieth anniversary of Romero's death, his words proved true. Last year, shaking hands as a sign of peace was replaced with acts of generosity and kindness which brought some peace in difficult times. Thank you to our friend Tim, who left a spare inner tube and a bike he didn't use outside our house, so that James and Edgar could enjoy a daily bike ride when their worlds were turned upside down and their own bikes were broken. Opportunities to share peace are always available, waiting to be shared.

Lucy Russell's book *Who Do I Say I Am?* Is available from Redemptorist Publications, www.rpbooks.co.uk

"The lamb is not a ruler but docile, it is not aggressive but peaceful; it shows no claws or teeth in the face of any attack; rather, it bears it and is submissive. And so is Jesus! So is Jesus, like a lamb."

Pope Francis

Found!

by Emerald O'Hanrahan

It's very easy to get caught up in busy-ness - even in lockdown, distractions are always available. One of the first things my husband and I created at home, in that terrifying time at the start of lockdown, was a little sanctuary - just a crucifix and two cushions on the floor. Sitting here became our lifeline. It was a space to be scared, tearful and honest with God - a place where we were found by Jesus. As time went on, we found Jesus in the faces of people reaching out to each other across balconies; in neighbours offering each other support and comfort; in my friend, a midwife, volunteering to be redeployed to an ITU ward in central London. As Mother Teresa said, "God has no hands but ours". It has been in this time that I have really understood where to find Jesus: yes, in the quiet and the stillness, and in the action, in the hands of all those people.

Emerald O'Hanrahan is best-known as Emma Grundy in the BBC Radio 4 series, *The Archers*.

Lord, it's sometimes easy to miss you because I am looking in the wrong places. Please put on my path people who radiate your love and compassion so that, seeing them, I see you. ✝ Amen.

Today:	Monday:	Tuesday:	Wednesday:	Thursday:	Friday:	Saturday:	Next Sunday:
1 Samuel 3:3-10. 19 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20 John 1:35-42	Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 2:18-22	Hebrews 6:10-20 Mark 2:23-28	Hebrews 7:1-3. 15-17 Mark 3:1-6	Hebrews 7:25 – 8:6 Mark 3:7-12	Hebrews 8:6-13 Mark 3:13-19	Hebrews 9:2-3. 11-14 Mark 3:20-21	Jonah 3:1-5. 10 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20

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