

# SUNDAY PLUS

Seek and you will find



## Looking for Jesus

by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

In her poem “A Legend from Russia”, Phyllis McGinley tells the story of the old grandmother, Babushka, who is invited to meet the royal child just born in Bethlehem. The old woman is about to retire for the night, “When out of the winter’s rush and roar came shepherds knocking at her door”. They share with her the good news that the long-awaited child has now been born and beg her to come and give them help. Babushka is a good-hearted woman, but her warm bed feels more appealing than a cold journey on a winter’s night. She tells her night callers that she will go tomorrow, and when they ask her to give them some food that they can take in her stead, she again tells them, “Tomorrow”.

When tomorrow dawns, Babushka is as good as her promise. She prepares a basket with goods and gifts; but the stable is empty when she arrives. Babushka arrives too late to meet the royal child and share her gifts. She is angry with herself for not accepting the invitation and she begins to wander the world looking for the Christ-child. In her search she finds children everywhere. With each child she finds, she leaves gifts in the hope that that child is the Christ-child. But she never knows for sure.

We come here knowing that we will find the Christ-child who awaits our loving presence. Here, in this sacred place, we can do what the wise men did: we can fall on our knees and worship the one we celebrate as Lord.

Fr Denis McBride’s many books are available from Redemptorist Publications, [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk)

## Prepare to be shocked!

by Fr Eddie McGhee

Simplicity is not a word that we necessarily associate with monarchy. Monarchs live in palaces. Their lives bear little resemblance to ours. That is what makes the Gospel vision of God’s kingdom so radical. It is simple and owes nothing to wealth and power. It is an almost shocking inversion of our understanding of kingdom. Jesus fully intended it to be shocking. Jesus came to bring radical change. The kingdom that Jesus offered was not invested in maintaining the “status quo”. God’s kingdom does not just include “the excluded” it positively welcomes them. How invested are we in this kingdom? Our society is often blinded by the allure of wealth and power. Success is measured in terms of how much we have. It is never enough to be shocked by the obvious

injustices in our world. The Gospel challenges us to build a kingdom that is consistent with the message of Jesus.

Lord, may we never be seduced by wealth or power but focused daily on the building of your kingdom. Amen.

Fr Eddie McGhee is the Catholic chaplain at a Scottish prison and the author of Faith Inside: a guide for Catholics in prison, available from Redemptorist Publications: [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk)

**Infant Lord, I cannot give you expensive gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. I can only give you myself: my heart, my love and my life. Take them, Lord. Keep them. Bring me close to you. Amen.**

## ’Tis a gift to be simple

by Dr Lawrence Osborn

Life was complicated for young Francis. He dreamt of winning fame and doing great things for God. But he struggled to find God amidst the distractions of life as a young upwardly mobile merchant in Assisi.

One day he was out riding when he met a leper. Most people feared and loathed lepers and Francis was no exception. But that morning God opened his eyes and he could no longer hide from the simple fact that this poor man was his brother. Instead of riding past, he dismounted, embraced the leper and discovered Jesus.

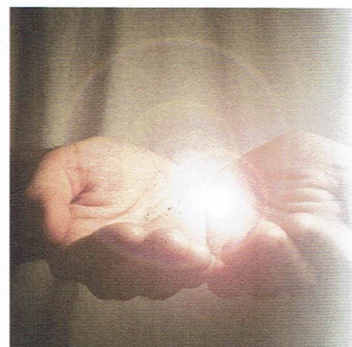
By making things complicated, we may be hiding from our neighbours, our responsibilities, and even God. God, give us the grace this week to see beyond the complexities of modern life to the simple reality of

your Son in someone who needs our love.

Dr Lawrence Osborn is an Anglican Franciscan Tertiary.

“**By the example of the Magi, with our little lights, may we seek the Light and keep the faith. May it be so.**

Pope Francis



<b>Today:</b> Isaiah 60:1-6 1 John 5:1-9 Mark 1:7-11	<b>Monday:</b> Isaiah 55:1-11 or 1 John 5:1-9 Mark 1:7-11	<b>Tuesday:</b> 1 Samuel 1:9-20 Mark 1:21-28	<b>Wednesday:</b> 1 Samuel 3:1-10. 19-20 Mark 1:29-39	<b>Thursday:</b> 1 Samuel 4:1-11 Mark 1:40-45	<b>Friday:</b> 1 Samuel 8:4-7. 10-22 Mark 2:1-12	<b>Saturday:</b> 1 Samuel 9:1-4. 17-19; 10:1 Mark 2:13-17	<b>Next Sunday:</b> 1 Samuel 3:3-10. 19 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20 John 1:35-42
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