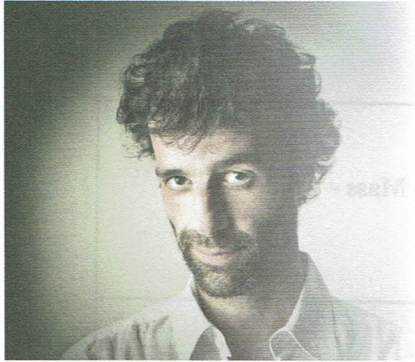


SUNDAY PLUS

Remember!



by Jim Cargin

Jesus, you cannot be serious! You tell us a parable about five “I’m-all-right-Jack” goody-goodyes and five duffers. And the question is, who going to win the big prize?

Heaven help us!

Will it be: a. those who make an honest mistake and screw up; or b. those oh-so-respectable types, who, when confronted by a neighbour in need, turn round and kick them in the teeth?

And the answer is... well, frankly, Jesus, surprising! Yes, of course, preparation is important. But being prepared for what? Prepared to help, that’s what! Fact: as human beings we all get it wrong sometimes, even badly wrong. So perhaps the so-called “wise” bridesmaids weren’t that clever after all: wouldn’t anyone truly smart and blessed with just a little milk of human kindness have factored human fallibility into their preparations, and brought along

a smidgeon of extra oil for their feckless colleagues? Heaven help anyone falling into the hands of the “wise” – but according to this parable, that shouldn’t be a problem, as they are usually spotted passing by on the other side, noses firmly skywards! Who knows, perhaps one day at their own point of need, a good old Samaritan will have mercy on them. They won’t deserve it, but then neither do any of us. That is how mercy works, offering a warm hand beyond cold justice. And, most amazingly, in this exchange, the bridegroom comes – and you find yourself greeting God.

Jim Cargin is a long-time worker with l’Arche.

“The Best”

by Dame Mary Richardson

Today, Remembrance Sunday, St Paul tells us unequivocally not to grieve about those who have died as we shall meet at the last day. Wisdom, we are told, is easy to find if we watch and are alert. That reading later goes on to say that the beginning of wisdom is discipline and obedience.

The foolish bridesmaids were neither wise nor self-disciplined nor alert. They did not accidentally run out of oil but set off without any and made no effort to get some until it was too late.

In his beautiful poem “The Soldier”, Fr Gerard Manley Hopkins SJ, writing one hundred and fifty years ago, speaks of Christ “seeing somewhere some man do all that man can do” and crying out, “O Christ-done deed!” Recently walking through the quiet fields of war graves of young, disciplined, alert soldiers who gave all, I saw one headstone and wept. Name. Number. Rank. The inscription read: “The Best”.

Dame Mary Richardson is the President of SOS Children’s Villages.

Thanks for the memory

by Sr Janet Fearn FMDM

My father’s family never really recovered from that first telegram saying that nineteen-year-old Frank was “missing in action”. Then the second telegram arrived: he was “missing, presumed dead” – and their lives changed for ever.

I watch the annual ceremony from the Cenotaph and the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance as memorial tributes to my Uncle Frank and Great-Uncle Austin. They and countless others who died fighting on our behalf are not anonymous or mere

statistics: they are people with names, faces, families and life stories. Remembrance Sunday celebrates each and every one of them.

We treasure Remembrance Sunday in this country because almost every family has lost someone to war. Remembrance Sunday gives us an opportunity to remember and reflect; to work for reconciliation and peace.

Just as Westminster Abbey’s tomb of the Unknown Warrior allows every family to pray for a soldier who might have been someone they knew and loved, so also Remembrance Sunday is a deeply personal opportunity to say, “Thanks for the memory”.

Sr Janet Fearn is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.

For the Fallen

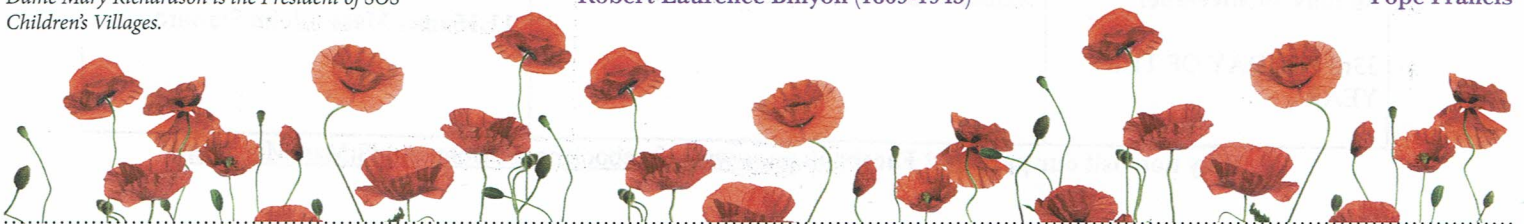
**They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.**

Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

“

**God is peace: let us ask him
to help us to be peacemakers
each day, in our life, in our
families, in our cities and
nations, in the whole world. Let
us allow ourselves to be moved
by God’s goodness.**

Pope Francis



Today: Wisdom 6:12-16 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13	Monday: Wisdom 1:1-7 Luke 17:1-6	Tuesday: Wisdom 2:23 – 3:9 Luke 17:7-10	Wednesday: Wisdom 6:1-11 Luke 17:11-19	Thursday (E&W): Wisdom 7:22 – 8:1 Luke 17:20-25	Thursday (S): St Margaret (Feast): Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 or 1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13; Matthew 25:31-46	Friday: Wisdom 13:1-9 Luke 17:26-37	Saturday: Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9 Luke 18:1-8	Next Sunday: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 Matthew 25:14-30
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