

SUNDAY PLUS



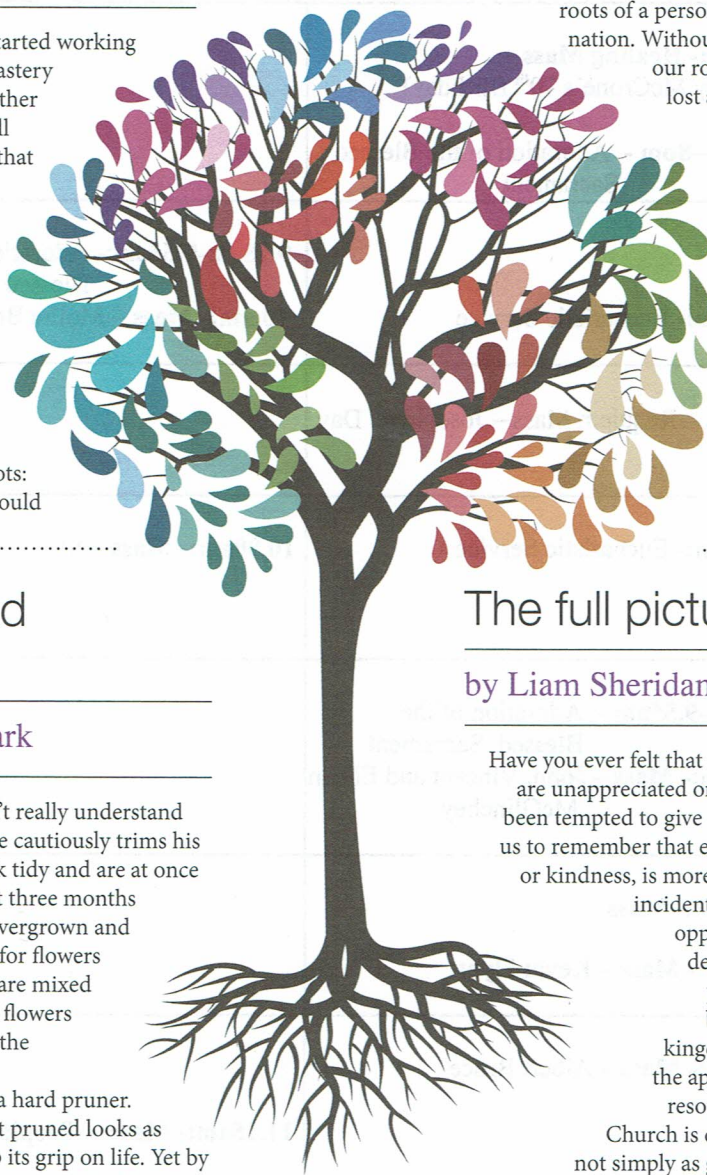
LIVERPOOL 2018
ADOREMUS

Remain in Jesus

Be rooted in Jesus

by Bro. Martin Horwath OCSO

When I first started working in our monastery garden, Brother Peter taught me what all good gardeners know: that plants need good roots in order to thrive. The deeper and stronger the roots, the better they can supply the plant with nourishment for healthy growth. But there is still another vital reason for the plant to have strong roots: without them, plants would



not be able to brave the strong winds and flooding. Humans have learned much from plants. Not for nothing do we speak of the roots of a person, a generation, a nation. Without knowing about our roots, we would be lost and have to learn everything from scratch or act instinctively, as the animal world does. St Paul was a searcher par excellence. His faith was deeply rooted in the Jewish religion, which he aggressively

defended against those who did not share his beliefs, even to persecuting the followers of Jesus. But through his dramatic and life-changing encounter with Jesus on the Damascus road, he came to see that only being rooted in the love of Jesus would he find the lasting remedy for his restless spirit. From that day forward, accepting Jesus as the true vine, Paul never wanted to be cut off from the roots of this most precious source of life and love. During the many difficulties and sufferings he experienced on the journey of his new life in Christ he remained steadfast in faith and trust in the Lord, the giver of life and fruitfulness.

Bro. Martin Horwath OCSO is a monk of Mount St Bernard's Abbey, Leicestershire.

Pruning and tough love

by Christine Clark

A friend of mine doesn't really understand pruning. Each spring he cautiously trims his shrubs so that they look tidy and are at once looking quite good. But three months later they are looking overgrown and shaggy, and the hoped-for flowers are either not there, or are mixed up with last year's dead flowers or are hidden amongst the undergrowth.

Now, I am a radical, a hard pruner. The rose that I have just pruned looks as if it could easily give up its grip on life. Yet by midsummer it will be a joy to behold, a mass of flowers – or at least a healthy and shapely shrub. This is just like us. Sometimes we need tough love and a hard prune to achieve our potential and to flourish when the season is right.

Christine Clark has recently retired as a member of the editorial staff of Redemptorist Publications.

The full picture

by Liam Sheridan

Have you ever felt that your good works are unappreciated or worthless – and been tempted to give up? It is good for us to remember that each act of mercy, or kindness, is more than an isolated incident. It represents an opportunity taken: a decision to actively participate in the building of God's kingdom. That is why the apostles' sharing of resources in the early Church is described in Acts not simply as generosity, but as an act of God's grace. Context is everything – those who have been forgiven much, forgive (and love) much. Imagine a soldier given a demeaning task when defeat is imminent. How much more likely he is to get on with the job when he knows it will contribute to victory! Our good deeds spring from our position and

the knowledge that we are part of God's army – the winning side. Never give up!

Liam Sheridan is a lawyer and father of three.



“**Jesus is the vine and through him – like the sap in the tree – the very love of God, the Holy Spirit passes to the branches. Look: we are the branches... The branches are not self-sufficient, but depend totally on the vine, in which is found the source of their life.**

Pope Francis

Lord, live in me. Love in me. Grow in me. Amen.

Today: Acts 9:26-31 1 John 3:18-24 John 15:1-8	Monday: Acts 14:5-18 John 14:21-26	Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28 John 14:27-31	Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6 John 15:1-8	Thursday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 John 14:6-14	Friday: Acts 15:22-31 John 15:12-17	Friday (E): The English Martyrs (Feast): Acts 7:55-60 Matthew 10:17-20	Saturday: Acts 16:1-10 John 15:18-21	Next Sunday: Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48 1 John 4:7-10 John 15:9-17
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