

SUNDAY PLUS



LIVERPOOL 2018
ADOREMUS

Stay in love

Fall in love, stay in love

by Frances Murphy

When the Eiffel Tower was first opened to the public on 6 May 1889, it would be a few weeks before the lifts that elevate tourists to its dizzying heights were in operation and so the first brave visitors had to climb more than one thousand seven hundred steps to get to the top.

The landmark was not destined for longevity: the original intention was to dismantle it after twenty years. However, thanks to a bit of negotiation and no small amount of upkeep, it still stands firm, dominating the Paris skyline. It is instantly recognisable as a

symbol, perhaps even a definition, of the “city of love”.

An initial burst of energy and excitement that over time and with work becomes familiar, durable and fundamental, is an arc that loving relationships tend to follow. And just as the Eiffel Tower continues to arouse awe – in those who are seeing it for the first time and in seasoned observers – the object of love always has the potential to inspire freshness and make one see everything anew, including the power and meaning of love.

Fr Pedro Arrupe, a Jesuit priest who led his order for nearly twenty years, knew the joys of a life totally shaped by the love of God, and



wrote with such passion and certainty that his words become a prayer whenever they are read: “Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a quite absolute,

final way... Fall in Love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.”

Frances Murphy is Editor of Thinking Faith, the online journal of the Jesuits in Britain.

Love makes the difference

by Eileen Cole

How beautiful is the way that Jesus has left us to follow – we are commanded to love. However, this love isn’t a soft, slushy, fuzzy, warm feeling inside – although that may happen occasionally. It’s not about feelings, which change quickly and easily. Jesus is clear: we show our love by keeping the Commandments. Love is shown in deeds and actions, not just in sweet words. If we think of the Commandments as a list of rules and prohibitions, which make life sad and unenjoyable, we may need to study our religion a bit more. Our Lord promises that these commandments are like the “Instructions for use” (of

life), so that: “... your joy may be complete.” We are spiritual beings with an immortal soul, nothing that is finite or material can make our joy complete; only God can fill up our hunger for happiness and love. And the way to reach God is clear.

Eileen Cole is a Media Officer with the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

Lord, if, in the words of the old song, “Love makes the world go around”, let every moment of every day be a love song for you and for each other. Amen.

The first stamp

by Daniel Kearney

“Just email it,” said the young irritated voice at the end of the telephone. “I don’t have an email account,” I replied, being deliberately awkward. “I’ll put it in the post,” I suggested. “Not snail mail”, the operator despaired.

We have, in many respects, come a long way since the first postage stamp, the Penny Black, revolutionised people’s lives one hundred and sixty-seven years ago today. Now the super highway connects people in mega seconds and we feel as if we could not live without such high-speed connectivity. As a writer and avid reader I fear for the decline of traditional letter-writing. What archive will be left for future generations by email, snapchat or twitter?

“Who writes letters?” said one of my pupils, who had never received a written letter. Sadly, too few of us, but perhaps it is something of which we should do more. Can an email be cherished in the same way as the letter we can hold, fold, read and re-read?

Daniel Kearney is a former headmaster and teacher of Religious Studies.

“Christian life is so simple! Jesus is the door. He leads us along the way and we recognise his voice in the Beatitudes, in the works of mercy and when he teaches us to say ‘Father’.

Pope Francis

Today:
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17

Monday:
Acts 16:11-15
John 15:26 – 16:4

Tuesday:
Acts 16:22-34
John 16:5-11

Wednesday:
Acts 17:15, 22 – 18:1
John 16:12-15

Thursday:
Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:17-23 or 4:1-13
Mark 16:15-20

Friday:
Acts 18:9-18
John 16:20-23

Saturday:
Acts 18:23-28
John 16:23-28

Next Sunday:
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
1 John 4:11-16
John 17:11-19