

SUNDAY PLUS



LIVERPOOL 2018
ADOREMUS

Break and share

Help one person at a time

by Jo Siedlecka

In his letter to the Ephesians, St Paul reminds us that we are all in this together and to make every effort to bear with one another with patience and love. Then in the Gospel we see the caring generosity of God, concerned about the needs

of every one of us. The apostles didn't know what to do when they saw the huge crowds of hungry people, but they listened to the words of Jesus and followed his advice.

Jesus took the little amount of food they managed to find and there was enough to feed the five thousand, with twelve baskets to spare.

When anyone is in need, we

must put them first. God expects us to do what we can and share whatever we have. Our resources will never be enough but God's generosity is limitless. We only need to have faith and he will not fail us. St Teresa of Calcutta said: "Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you."

The focus here is on caring for those in need, not on increasing the fortunes

of those who are already well off.

This is also the theme of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. If we share the gifts of the earth fairly, there will be enough for everyone.

And at the end of this Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples to gather every piece of leftover food – not to waste anything – again, showing respect for the world's resources.

Jo Siedlecka runs the website, Independent Catholic News: www.indcatholicnews.com

Feed the hungry – with love

by Dr Lucy Russell

My nephew looked forlornly up at his father, then down again at his meal. "What's the matter?" asked my brother. Sean didn't answer: he just looked at the burger. However it had been prepared and the extras which accompanied it, the burger was not what he had been expecting. He didn't like the taste or texture. But he didn't want to tell his Dad and risk being told off for wasting the food he'd ordered. My brother didn't speak either. He started to take the mushrooms off his pizza. Sean doesn't like mushrooms. Once they had all been removed, Michael swapped his meal with Sean's. My nephew's eyes lit up. Michael ate the

burger and the mushrooms he'd taken from the pizza – and I smiled inwardly at this metaphor of God the Father's generous love. God didn't just provide enough to feed the hungry crowds: he provided more than they needed.

Dr Lucy Russell is the author of *Who do you say you are?*, available from Redemptorist Publications: www.rpbooks.co.uk

**Living Lord,
fill me with the
loveliness of the
people around me.
Let us share your
goodness in the
beauties of your
creation. Amen.**

Come, dine with me

by Dr Liam Waldron

A popular TV show called *Come dine with me* sees a group of strangers cook for each other in the hope of scooping a cash prize. Competitors score each other based on the standard of the cuisine and also on the effort made to create a nice atmosphere. Those who win often do so based on the hospitality they show to the others.

The meal is one of the most recognisable forms of hospitality we have. It's an opportunity to begin or to deepen a relationship where guest and host get to know each other better through the opening of both home and heart.

Today's Gospel is an extraordinary story of hospitality involving the

feeding of strangers who were hungry, not only for food, but also for friendship, hope and healing. Jesus invites the guests to sit, then prays and feeds them with what they need.

As Christians, we are invited to imitate Jesus in sharing what we have with others – not only food but also that hope we have within us which comes from a relationship with God who is the perfect host.

Dr Liam Waldron is the co-author of *Intellectual Disability: caring for yourself and others*, a book which is part of the *Pastoral Outreach series*, available from Redemptorist Publications: www.rpbooks.co.uk

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God makes his
most beautiful flowers
grow among the driest
stones.**

Pope Francis

Today:
2 Kings 4:42-44
Ephesians 4:1-6
John 6:1-15

Monday:
Jeremiah 13:1-11
Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday:
Jeremiah 14:17-22
Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday:
Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21
Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday:
Jeremiah 18:1-6
Matthew 13:47-53

Friday:
Jeremiah 26:1-9
Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday:
Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24
Matthew 14:1-12

Next Sunday:
Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15
Ephesians 4:17, 20-24
John 6:24-35