

SUNDAY PLUS



LIVERPOOL 2018
ADOREMUS

Celebrate!

Open the ears of your heart



by Sr Janet Fearn FMDM

Philip was one very frustrated little boy. He thought that he talked normally, but other people didn't. Only his parents and seven-year-old elder brother could understand his speech. At first, he thought it was because other people could not hear him so he spoke increasingly loudly. "Little voice, Philip", his parents would say in an effort to lower the volume. Although they were very good interpreters, he yearned to talk directly to people. To complicate matters, Philip's severe dyslexia meant that only he and the family could make sense of his writing.

Thanks to his

parents' determination, Philip received many years of speech therapy and teaching support. Now, he not only talks: he never stops! He learned to handle his dyslexia so that he eventually gained a Master's degree in physiotherapy. The world is a different place.

It is easy to underestimate the change that Jesus made to one person's life in this Gospel. Perhaps two thousand years later, the man might have received surgery or a hearing aid and one-to-one speech therapy but in his own time and place, he and all those who witnessed Jesus' intervention could only see his cure as an act of God.

As England and Wales celebrate a national Eucharistic Congress, perhaps it might be worth reflecting on the potential change to our own lives if we were to more fully open our ears and our hearts to our Eucharistic Lord. Today, through receiving Jesus in Holy Communion, let us make him the king and centre of our hearts.

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

Come together

by Daniel Kearney

Some years ago at an interview I was asked how I might teach the sacraments. "As a celebration", I replied, because that is what the sacraments do - bring people together to celebrate important and life-changing stages in life. At each of these significant events in our faith journey through life - baptism, marriage and, ultimately, death - we are amongst people, family and friends, who have come together specifically to celebrate these important milestones with us. Think of proud parents at a baptism showing off the miracle of new life or a young child celebrating their first Holy Communion with their family or a newly-married couple

on their wedding day surrounded by family and friends. At such significant moments we need the support of people because they help us to remember what good God has brought to our lives.

Daniel Kearney's books on adult and childhood bullying are available from Redemptorist Publications: www.rpbooks.co.uk

"It is much more important to realise how much God loves us, than how much we ourselves love him.

Pope Francis

One in the Lord

by Maggie Doherty

A major event is taking place this weekend in Liverpool - a Eucharistic Congress - which will promote the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Pope Francis has encouraged us all to have a Eucharistic heart and to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament "if possible, every day - especially amid life's difficulties."

He invites us "to speak filially with him, to listen to him in silence, and to peacefully entrust yourself to him."

We hear in today's Gospel that the crowds were overwhelmed with amazement by Jesus' ministry - "He has done everything well," they said,

"he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Jesus is waiting for us every day in the Blessed Sacrament. He wants us to bring the needs of our friends and family, the joys, the hopes, the problems and the difficulties of life.

He wants to tell us that we have done all things well and to help us to get up and start anew when they've not gone so well.

Maggie Doherty is the Deputy Director Communications for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

Lord of my life, be the life of my love. Amen.

Today:
Isaiah 35:4-7
James 2:1-5
Mark 7:31-37

Monday:
1 Corinthians 5:1-8
Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday:
1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday:
1 Corinthians 7:25-31
Luke 6:20-26

Thursday:
1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13
Luke 6:27-38

Friday:
Numbers 21:4-9
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

Saturday:
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 19:25-27 or
Luke 2:33-35

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 50:5-9
James 2:14-18
Mark 8:27-35