

SUNDAY PLUS



LIVERPOOL 2018
ADOREMUS

On our side

Tolerance

by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.



for tolerance and hospitality while meeting with intolerance everyone not of their company? Jesus' lesson is instructive for ourselves. The cause of Catholicism is not served by the rejection of other ways of Christian discipleship.

Jesus calls on each of us to be tolerant. Christian tolerance is not weakness or a lazy acceptance of whatever movement happens to be in vogue. Christian tolerance is a reverence for the truth that is always larger than ourselves; it is recognition of the charity that flourishes beyond the reaches of our borders; it is a profound respect for the freedom of God to move in his chosen ways. It is a humility before the greatness of God. After all, if God risks hoping in us, why should we deny his hope in others?

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications: www.rpbooks.co.uk

In today's Gospel the disciples of Jesus refuse to recognise the authority of an exorcist who doesn't belong to their company. The exorcist has been successful in his ministry and that success clearly worries the disciples.

The disciples are obviously threatened by the outsider's success. Are they apprehensive about being displaced? Do they see ministry in terms of rivalry?

Seeing a man's success, the disciples seem to feel diminished, reduced, lessened as disciples. It's as if their own self-esteem will be

reinforced if the outsider is rejected. But Jesus refuses to do this. Instead, he invites his fragile company to a larger vision of God's goodness. He commands his followers to leave the outsider in peace: "Anyone who is not against us is for us."

Why should the disciples hope

Dog in the manger

by Cowan Watson

It's so easy to reject someone because they are "not like us".

About six hundred years before Christ, Aesop wrote his fable about the dog in the manger. In Aesop's story a dog is found lying in a manger full of hay. When an ox tries to eat some of the hay, the dog bites him, despite the fact that the hay is of no use to the dog.

Sometimes, we as Christians can act in the same way. We can be so certain of by our own rules and regulations, so convinced of what we perceive to be the correct way of doing things that we can be scornful and even hostile towards those whose approach may differ from our own. We need to be able to recognise and to rejoice when someone is witnessing to the truth. We mustn't allow people to go hungry for the nourishment of the Gospel, simply

because they are being fed from a hand other than our own.

Cowan Watson is the Editor of The Light of the North, the magazine of the Aberdeen archdiocese.

“**Teach us not to quarrel among ourselves to get a little more power; teach us to be humble, teach us to love the Church more than our own side, than our internal squabbles; teach us to have a heart open to receive the Spirit. Lord, send forth your Spirit upon us! Amen.**

Pope Francis

Celebrate difference

by Mary Bell

It was Advent, the Festival of the Infant Jesus and our first Sunday in North India. A colourful procession following the statue of the Infant of Prague snaked around the town and back into the church grounds for about two hours. The bishop concelebrated Mass with a dozen priests for almost four thousand people. Incense rose, silver streamers fluttered, hymns were sung and prayers fervently said in Hindi, the faithful all sitting cross-legged on the grass.

Imagine our surprise when only about a third of the congregation went up to receive Communion. Our guide Sister Leila explained that most of those present were Hindus who attended Mass quite frequently for worship. "After all," they said, "God is God."

We also discovered that the day of

meditation held on the first Saturday of each month at the ashram attached to the local Catholic seminary was regularly attended by several thousand non-Christians.

Mary Bell is a grandmother and a retired teacher who continues to use her skills in the University of the Third Age.

Lord of life, it's very easy to wish that other people were on "my side" but it can be hard to see another person's point of view and give them the support that they need. Help me, Lord, to be kind and supportive to people who might feel alone when they are facing difficulties. Amen.

Today:
Numbers 11:25-29
James 5:1-6
Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Monday:
Job 1:6-22
Luke 9:46-50

Tuesday:
Exodus 23:20-23
Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Wednesday:
Job 9:1-12, 14-16
Luke 9:57-62

Thursday:
Job 19:21-27
Luke 10:1-12

Friday:
Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5
Luke 10:13-16

Saturday:
Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17
Luke 10:17-24

Next Sunday:
Genesis 2:18-24
Hebrews 2:9-11
Mark 10:2-16