

# SUNDAY PLUS



LIVERPOOL 2018  
ADOREMUS

Listen and respond

## Trust the Lord's compassion

by Mary Bell

If ever there was a Gospel which showed Jesus' compassion and understanding, it is Mark's. We know of Jesus' deep love for children because he liked them to come close to him. Nothing would touch his heart more strongly than a father's plea for healing for his young daughter. By the time he arrived she had already been declared dead, but that didn't disturb him. The people's mockery was nothing to him. His words were gentle: "Little girl, get up." Jesus even realised that everyone would be paralysed with shock at her recovery: he brought them down to earth with the mundane command to get her something to eat. We imagine the tears of joy, the hugs... Did she give Jesus a big hug too?

Jesus responded to Jairus' faith as he had to the poor woman with the haemorrhage. He listened and felt their pain. This is our touchstone: that, ignoring convention (they were females), in spite of the failure of all other means, in the face of apparent impossibility, he answered their trust. We must remember this when we are desperate.

Pope Francis tells us that Jesus was not judgmental; that it is our duty to be Christ-like in our dealings with everybody, particularly the marginalised, the poor, the old and the sick. We should also remember to ask for healing for ourselves. In times of trouble, when we are afraid, in despair, even approaching death, we must trust in the Lord's compassion and he will listen.

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



## Loving is best

by Christine Clark

Young parents Sarah and Peter were thrilled when baby Jamie came along and for the first few years they found parenting easy. Jamie was a good baby and he seemed to confirm their idea that all this was fairly simple. But as Jamie turned three, life became difficult. As his inquisitiveness and adventurousness, not to say unusual approach to playing "nicely" with his friends, came to the fore, so his parents didn't always know how to handle him.

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**When we are feeling sad, when it feels like everything is going wrong, we should remember: "God loves me. God never abandons me".**

Pope Francis

They adjusted their approach and rather than aim for a model child, they addressed each challenge, taking it one day at a time. They loved him deeply and were able to see past the troublesome child whom others seemed to see. They found alternative goals and routes. While giving Jamie clear boundaries, they always kept lines of communication open. In time, Jamie grew up, settled down, decided to get on with people rather than rile them, focus on his school work and aim high in his education. Today he is the nicest, most loving, tolerant, communicative man. I wonder how that happened?

*Christine Clark has recently retired from the editorial staff of Redemptorist Publications.*

## Healing hands

by Dr Philip Alton

We're constantly invited to take part in the great healing work of Jesus; yet we often fail to take notice of the pain of those around us. But Jesus, even when on the way to heal Jairus' daughter, is still listening for where he can help others, and takes the time to speak and heal the woman on the way.

Like Jesus, our hands and words have the power to heal: a kind act or encouraging word will always build up, restoring life. But often we feel too busy to listen; telling ourselves that we're doing enough – what more could be asked of us? But acting without listening stops loving and risks missing moments in which we can pivotally help.

As a doctor, I know how easy

it is to become caught up in the business of treating the sick, whilst forgetting to heal them. But our good works are meaningless if we do not do them with love.

*Dr Philip Alton is a medical doctor with a young family.*

**Loving Lord,  
when I feel  
overburdened  
with everything  
that is happening  
in my life, let me  
listen to you. Let  
me hear you tell  
me that you love  
me. Amen.**

Today:  
Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24  
2 Corinthians 8:7. 9. 13-15  
Mark 5:21-43

Monday:  
Amos 2:6-10. 13-16  
Matthew 8:18-22

Tuesday:  
Ephesians 2:19-22  
John 20:24-29

Wednesday:  
Amos 5:14-15. 21-24  
Matthew 8:28-34

Thursday:  
Amos 7:10-17  
Matthew 9:1-8

Friday:  
Amos 8:4-6. 9-12  
Matthew 9:9-13

Saturday:  
Amos 9:11-15  
Matthew 9:14-17

Next Sunday:  
Ezekiel 2:2-5  
2 Corinthians 12:7-10  
Mark 6:1-6