

# SUNDAY PLUS

Global invitation

## Have I accepted God's invitation?



by Stephen Davies

Sitting with sixty others in a field in Cologne in 2005, we were celebrating Mass with a seemingly endless flow of people around us. We were on our way to the Vigil at World Youth Day. Our response to the Psalm was "All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord." Walking past were people from across Europe and the US, along with people from many African and Asian nations and even small islands in the Pacific of

which I had never heard. It felt like people from "all nations" were gathering to worship our loving God.

We know that God's house has room for all people: not just people like me and not even just people like those I see around me in my parish on a Sunday morning. God's house has no limits. But if we believe this, then, as Pope Francis keeps encouraging us, we need to reach out to the peripheries and margins, to share God's love with all people.

This includes people far away, such as Mongolia, the world's youngest Catholic Church. When Bishop

Wens arrived there as a missionary in the 1990s from his native Philippines, there was no church and so he began celebrating Mass in a hotel room. Twenty-five years later, there are churches providing material and pastoral support to thousands of people.

The invitation to receive God's love is universal. Do I accept that invitation myself? And how do I reach out to offer the invitation to others both near and far?

Stephen Davies is the Red Box Fundraising Director for Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries.

## RSVP

by Max Mathews

When Jesus was asked: "will only a few be saved?" we perhaps expect that he would reassure us with examples of people being welcomed with open arms.

Instead, he answered with an analogy of a narrow door, and admitted that "for many... will try to enter and will not be able... the owner of the house... [will] shut the door." It seems open-and-shut.

Will we be locked outside the pearly gates if we sin?

What we do know from scripture is that people of all nations and languages "will come and sit down at the feast in the kingdom of God."


In Proverbs it tells us: "those who seek me diligently find me."

So, after the invitation we need to RSVP, to demonstrate our faith.

Another responsibility as Catholics, as evangelisers, is to spread the word to as many people as we can, to open the global invitation to others.

Tell everyone you meet the good news – we're all invited. Will you respond?

Max Mathews is a young Catholic who is studying to become a journalist.

**Dearest Lord, I can't love all the world all of the time. Please help me to love some people some of the time by taking care of those who are part of my daily life  Amen.**

## Why make life difficult?

by Rachel Thompson

"Our class is better than they are, aren't we Miss?" United against a common enemy, another class, school or even religion, we feel stronger. We want to reassure each other and find comfort in the knowledge that we're better than other people. Just like my class, it's our insecurity that makes us judge others and build barriers.

Today's good news is that everyone is invited to the feast. Our invitation doesn't depend on someone else not being good enough to get in. If only we could understand just how much we are loved by God we wouldn't

feel the need to be the best. Knowing we are loved enables us to open ourselves to other people, breaking barriers and putting their needs before our own. My class might look to me to tell them they're good enough, but like the rest of us, they'd be infinitely better off looking to God.

Whilst working as Redemptorist Publications' Children's Editor, Rachel Thompson is also a secondary school teacher, wife and mum.

**"It takes effort to always do good... The road to holiness is not for the lazy!"**

Pope Francis

Today:  
Isaiah 66:18-21  
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13  
Luke 13:22-30

Monday:  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5.  
8-10  
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday:  
1 Thessalonians  
2:1-8  
Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday:  
1 Thessalonians  
2:9-13  
Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday:  
Jeremiah 1:17-19  
Mark 6:17-29

Friday:  
1 Thessalonians  
4:1-8  
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday:  
1 Thessalonians  
4:9-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

Next Sunday:  
Ecclesiasticus 3:17-20, 28-29  
Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24  
Luke 14:1, 7-14