

SUNDAY PLUS

The heart's treasure trove

Where's your heart?

by Stephen Davies

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” – just one of many phrases from the Bible which has passed into common parlance. We can all nod sagely and agree, without asking, “What do I truly treasure?” My family? My friends? Creation? If I mean it, I should show it. Do those people realise how much I treasure them?

And if I'm being honest, what else do I value? My job? What people think about me? Given how often I check it, the chances are that I treasure my phone!

What about God? I know how easily I am distracted by so many other things that I fail to make time to sit down in prayer with God,* and don't treasure God's love and presence in my life.



St Oscar Romero famously said, “Aspire not to have more, but to be more”, which echoes Jesus' challenge in today's Gospel to sell our possessions and give alms.

This is a call to realign where our heart is. It's also a chance to reach out to all those who need our help. This support includes enabling them to experience God's love, even people in the remotest corners of the earth, often through our support of missionaries who are able to go where we cannot.

There's a final challenge. Even deep down in my heart I can know that all these things are true. But doing something about them – well, that can wait until tomorrow. Jesus tells us we must be ready. Don't put it off until tomorrow. All those I treasure, including God, need to know it today.

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

Look inside

by Max Mathews

Say “treasure” and what springs to mind? Pirates, a chest full of gold coins, a Robert Louis Stevenson book?

But treasure is not just an object, a thing, to possess or acquire. Treasure also means to hold something close to you, to consider it valuable, regardless of its price.


What we treasure says a lot about us as a faith community and as a society. God asks us to look inside, to consider wealth in spiritual terms, rather than to look outwards at our material wealth.

The Bible asks us to trust that having treasure in our hearts, rather than in our houses, garages or – heaven forbid – larders, will pay dividends in the Kingdom of God.

As long as you count your wealth in your heart, rather than your bank account, you won't go far wrong. After all, Luke tells us that our heart will always be where our riches are.

So I ask you: what do you treasure?

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

Loving Lord, you planted some incredibly beautiful treasures in my heart but it's not always easy to see them. Sometimes I also miss seeing the treasures in other people's hearts. Open my eyes and, together, let us celebrate the amazing gift of your love  Amen.

Inner riches

by Liam Sheridan

In a culture that prizes rationality and naturalistic explanations of the world, to speak of faith - confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see – borders on iconoclastic. To many people it can seem like an unnecessary add on; a relic of a bygone age. Yet Jesus' interpretation of faith breaks down this false analysis. For instead of faith presenting itself as an encumbrance, in his vision of discipleship it is faith that cuts through the clutter: preventing us from clinging to things that entangle us and hinder our readiness for his return. How much time do you spend cleaning, storing, mending and sorting things you do not need? It's hard

to “desire a better country”, like the heroes of the faith in Hebrews, when we're weighed down by the accoutrements of the current one. Let's think heavenly, not earthly, treasure this week!

Liam Sheridan is a lawyer and father of three.

“You can, you must try to seek God in every human life. Although the life of a person is a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God.”

Pope Francis

Today: Wisdom 18:6-9 Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 Luke 12:32-48	Monday: Deuteronomy 10:12-22 Matthew 17:22-27	Tuesday: Deuteronomy 31:1-8 Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14	Wednesday: Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Matthew 18:15-20	Thursday: Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6, 10 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 Luke 1:39-56	Friday: Joshua 24:1-13 Matthew 19:3-12	Saturday: Joshua 24:14-29 Matthew 19:13-15	Next Sunday: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10 Hebrews 12:1-4 Luke 12:49-53
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