

# SUNDAY PLUS

Keep faith...

## Just trust!

By Sr Mary Burke  
FMDM

Jesus is about to come face to face with death, not only physical death, but the end of his mission on earth. There are other deaths that Jesus also faces: the seeming death of his friendship with his disciples, the lack of trust that Judas' betrayal brings and solitary walk to Calvary that awaits him. How does Jesus respond? We see him offer the cup of life to Judas, speak clearly to Peter about his betrayal and offer healing to the man whose ear Peter cuts off.

Not only does Jesus give us a legacy of how to live well, but he also leaves us a template for how to die well. Jesus opens his suffering

and undefended heart once again, trusting even Judas to change and still loving Peter in his weakness. Jesus shows us how to continue to trust, to love and forgive on our journey.

Jesus' final journey is marked as his whole life has been by humility, forgiveness and healing. He does not abandon those who abandon him. Instead, he gently reminds them of their need for God, of their frailty and after his resurrection trusts them with the building of the kingdom of heaven here on earth. Perhaps we too can focus this week on how our Lord trusts us to get up, to move on and to spread his words, having learned from and not been crippled by our own limitations. We are, after all, much more in God's eyes than our weaknesses.

*Sr Mary Burke is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.*



## Always a way back

By Michael George

For six weeks we have journeyed through Lent. Lent is now reaching its climax: we are into Holy Week.

At the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, many of us will have formed good intentions – throughout Lent we would go without something or we would do something differently by way of accompanying Jesus in the desert and preparing ourselves spiritually for Holy Week and for Easter.

An intention, of course, is not the same as an act. How often we may set off on a good course but then lose some focus or fail to see through what we started off.

We are fragile, as human

beings. Jesus' closest followers fell asleep when he had asked them to stay awake and even though they could not see it themselves, Jesus foretold that his friends would lose faith in him. Good intentions were not seen through. Human frailty won.

God's love is so great that there is always a way back. God's love is so great that Jesus went to the cross, was crucified, died and was buried, for his friends who had lost faith... and for us. For us, who may sometimes have fallen asleep.


Even now, at the start of Holy Week, it is not too late to revisit good intentions made on Ash Wednesday. In this final week of our preparations for Easter we are called again to be awake and to keep faith – to commit again to allowing the love of God to fill our lives.

*Michael George has served Catholic primary schools as a teacher and Headteacher for more than twenty years.*

Jesus on the cross feels the whole weight of the evil, and with the force of God's love he conquers it, he defeats it with his

resurrection. This is the good that Jesus does for us on the throne of the cross. Christ's cross embraced with love never leads to sadness, but to joy, to the joy of having been saved and of doing a little of what he did on the day of his death.

Pope Francis

Lord, there are many people who are hurting and who walk with you in a special way during Holy Week. Comfort them and give them the courage and strength that they need.  Amen.

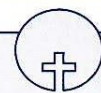
Feast of the week

Friday 7 April

Good Friday

"I asked Jesus, 'How much do you love me?' And Jesus said, 'This much.' Then he stretched out his arms and died."

Unknown



Today:  
Isaiah 50:4-7  
Philippians 2:6-11  
Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

Monday:  
Isaiah 42:1-7  
John 12:1-11

Tuesday:  
Isaiah 49:1-6  
John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday:  
Isaiah 50:4-9  
Matthew 26:14-25

Thursday:  
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-15

Friday:  
The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord:  
Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12  
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1 – 19:42

Saturday:  
The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night:  
Exodus 14:15 – 15:1  
Romans 6:3-11  
Matthew 28:1-10

Next Sunday:  
Acts 10:34, 37-43  
Colossians 3:1-4 or  
1 Corinthians 5:6-8  
John 20:1-9