


SUNDAY PLUS

The throne of the heart

Proper job

By Brian Fahy



May we be increasingly open to God's surprises, for he wants to light up our path. May we be more and more open to hearing his voice, also through the voices of our brothers and sisters... May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for all of us.  Amen.

Young in heart

By Natalie Claviera

Kids say the funniest things. I remember once, at the beginning of Advent, saying to my young son, "Let's say a special prayer to the Father". He desperately clasped his hands together and began, "Dear Father Christmas"! We shared a laugh as he quickly realised his mistake. He was so happy it was the beginning of Advent and was looking forward to all that Christmastide was to bring. It's through the ears, eyes and voices of children we witness all that is good, pure and joyful in the world. Listening to their enquiring questions help us to navigate and appreciate our own faith journey, whilst guiding them on theirs. Jesus always spoke to children with such care, kindness, and attention: he admired their unassuming humility. Perhaps we, in turn, can learn a thing or two from them?

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It was the end of the working day and two men strolled along the village street to their local pub. It was a quiet and cosy corner of the world, and they looked forward to this hour of the day, when work was done and they could relax in their favourite chairs with two

refreshing pints of real ale. Sipping through the froth of their golden nectar they would then indulge in one of their favourite pastimes, which was "putting the world to rights". This was never a moan or a groan, but rather a quietly considered reflection on how the world should be. In that quiet gloaming it was a very pleasant thing to do.

Putting the world to rights is an act of judgement whereby the wheat is sorted from the chaff, and sheep from goats. It is an act of seeing justice done for everyone. The judge who will do this sorting is a person of utter goodness and kindness. We have seen him and we know him in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. With this judge there is no rejoicing at seeing people lost or condemned. No *schadenfreude* (pleasure in someone else's misfortune) here. God wants everyone to be saved. If anyone is lost, the scriptures tell us, it is the one who chooses to be lost. This is frightening power that we hold, the power to destroy ourselves.

In the meantime, as an old coalminer once said, our job is to be proper with one another. In that way we put the world to rights.

Brian Fahy describes himself as an "apprentice poet". His website is to be found at www.errispoetry.com

The kingship of Jesus doesn't oppress us, but rather frees us from our weaknesses and miseries, encouraging us to walk the path of the good, of reconciliation and of forgiveness. Let us look at the Cross of Jesus, let us look at the "good thief", and let us all say together what the good thief said: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Pope Francis

Feast of the week Thursday 30 November St Andrew

Andrew, "the first to be an Apostle", is traditionally also credited with bringing Christianity to Scotland.

Tradition relates that, in 832, in what is now East Lothian, King Angus of the Picts prepared to fight a large Anglo-Saxon army. The night before the battle, he dreamed that he would see a cross and must fight in its name. When he awoke, in the deep blue early morning sky, Angus saw white clouds in the shape of the Saltire, the diagonal cross on which St Andrew is said to have died. He ordered his men to carry the emblem into battle – and won. From that moment, Andrew and his Saltire cross became Scotland's national symbols.

As the years passed and especially during national emergencies, the Saltire has represented Andrew's protective concern for Scotland. Such famous historical characters as William Wallace and Robert the Bruce are recorded as depending on the apostle who introduced his brother Peter to Jesus.

St Andrew, watch over, bless and protect the people of Scotland.

Today:
Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Matthew 25:31-46

Monday:
Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20
Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday:
Daniel 2:31-45
Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday:
Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28
Luke 21:12-19

Thursday:
Romans 10:9-18
Matthew 4:18-22

Friday:
Daniel 7:2-14
Luke 21:29-33

Saturday:
Daniel 7:15-27
Luke 21:34-36

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37