

SUNDAY *Plus*

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week II** Year C



I had many other jobs by day; one, to look after ten children in a boarding house, while their mothers, all either widowed or divorced, went out in search of new husbands...

I varied these jobs by becoming alternatively an interior decorator and a charwoman. Those were a financial failure: the interior decorating because my patrons, so delighted by the results, seldom paid me, and I was incapable of reminding them of the debt; the cleaning because, owing to an ungovernable terror of mice, dead or alive, which has obsessed my life, I could not bring myself to remove dead ones from traps in the kitchens where I worked, and was obliged to bribe the cooks with nearly all my wages to do it for me. My wages were

very small and the bribes were demanded every day.

The various third-rate eating shops and fish-and-chip bars stank. I had only to stand in front of one for a few minutes to feel, not only fed, but surfeited – not only surfeited but also disgusted, and so prevented from the smallest desire for food...

With curious presumption, I was confident that God, whom I was forsaking, would not forsake me; I was too certain that he would give me all that I really needed, to feel the least anxiety about the next meal or the next week's rent, and in this I was right: there was always just enough, and it was always just in time.

Caryll Houselander, Rocking Horse Catholic

Loving Lord, teach me to look for you in everyone I meet. Help me so that people can look at me and see you.  Amen.

Home is...

By Mary Bell

If you've ever been forced to leave the house where you've lived for most of your life you will know the feeling of loss. This place has witnessed all the ups and downs of family life; the joys, the sorrows, the rows, the laughter. Here is the familiar, the well known. We call it home.

Yet should you chance to return to that same place sometime later, you may experience a sense of surprise. This is no longer your house, your

home. Why? Because it no longer houses those you love. Any sense of belonging leaves with the people who have lived there.

Home is the place where we expect, and are entitled to, a welcome. When we are young, we take it for granted. Even in adolescence, at our most rebellious, it is our safe haven. So, it is understandable that Jesus encourages his disciples to stay where they are welcomed, where they feel most "at home".

Following many years in the classroom and as Head of RE, retired teacher Mary Bell now has time to enjoy the beauty of the natural world around her.

Each human person is an end in himself or herself, and never simply a means to be valued only for his or her usefulness. Persons are created to live together in families, communities and societies, where all are equal in dignity.

Pope Francis

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope Find reasons to hope

Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often, we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope.

Pope Francis, Bull of Indiction of Jubilee Year of Hope

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 66:10-14c
Galatians 6:14-18
Luke 10:1-12. 17-20

Monday:
Genesis 28:10-22a
Matthew 9:18-26

Tuesday:
Genesis 32:23-33
Matthew 9:32-38

Wednesday:
Genesis 41:55-57;
42:5-7a. 17-24a
Matthew 10:1-7

Thursday:
Genesis 44:18-21.
23b-29; 45:1-5
Matthew 10:7-15

Friday:
Genesis 46:1-7. 28-30
Matthew 10:16-23

Saturday:
Genesis 49:29-33;
50:15-26a
Matthew 10:24-33

Next Sunday:
Deuteronomy 30:10-14
Colossians 1:15-20
Luke 10:25-37

