

SUNDAY PLUS

Just trust!

God knows us

By Michael George

Earlier in my working life I felt I had a career path mapped out. I thought I knew what I would be doing and approximately when I would be doing it. I did not anticipate that I would now be a school chaplain!

God knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows the feelings in our heart even when we cannot express them ourselves. God knows all that is best for us and invites us to find that ourselves, trusting in him. Sometimes this might lead us in an unanticipated direction and involve what feels like a risk or leap into the unknown, like a change of career direction or response to the call of a vocation. Today's Gospel reassures: "I know them... they will never be lost."


I am reminded to "just trust" in God each day. In today's first reading, when Paul and Barnabas proclaimed the word of God it was welcomed by some but greeted with hostility



by others. Others still perhaps responded with indifference. Paul and Barnabas could have become disheartened by the realisation that the message they were sharing was not being received by all as they had intended, but instead were filled with joy.

As I endeavour to witness to and to share the Good News of the Gospel, I do not know – I cannot know – what impact this has on everyone else. What I can do is trust that God is working through me and that God's will may be done.

Michael George has worked in Catholic schools in the south of England for 25 years, as teacher, headteacher and chaplain.

Loving Lord, give me a heart that sings a song of love for you and for the people I meet. Fill my life with the music of the beautiful world you created.  Amen.

Unfamiliar pathways

By Francis Abanga

Moving to a new country is both thrilling and overwhelming. For anyone starting this unfamiliar journey, there are numerous obstacles and chances for growth.

I moved from Ghana to England in July 2023, and I find myself navigating unfamiliar paths that require building new levels of trust. Adapting to a different culture, learning a new way of life can be quite challenging. However, through these unfamiliar experiences, we often find growth and development.

The unfamiliar can be transformative, pushing us to move beyond our comfort zones, compelling us to adapt and acquire new skills. Adapting to different accents and climate brings its own lessons and insights.

A new country opens doors to diverse experiences and perspectives, provides opportunities to broaden horizons and to connect with people from all walks of life. These encounters can ignite creativity and cultivate a global mindset.

While the road ahead may seem daunting, unfamiliar pathways can lead to personal growth, resilience and a deeper understanding of oneself. Through these challenges individuals discover their strengths and face their fears.

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Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

9-11 May:
Jubilee of Musical Bands



Often, while walking along, a song will come to mind which really seems to express how we are feeling. This is also true for the life of faith, which is a pilgrimage toward the light of the risen Lord. The sacred scriptures are steeped in song and the Psalms are a striking example: the prayers of the people of Israel were written to be sung and it was in song that the most human events were presented before the Lord. The tradition of the Church has continued this, making music and song one of the lungs of its liturgy. The Jubilee, which is expressed as an event of people on pilgrimage to the Holy Door, also uses song as one of the ways of expressing its motto, "Pilgrims of Hope".

The music, lyrics and recordings in English, French, Spanish and Italian of the Jubilee hymn are available for free download at www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/inno-giubileo-2025.html.

Lord, teach us to step outside ourselves. Teach us to go out into the streets and manifest your love.

Pope Francis

Today:
Acts 13:14, 43-52
Revelation 7:9, 14b-17
John 10:27-30

Monday:
Acts 11:1-18
John 10:1-10

Tuesday:
Acts 11: 19-26
John 10:22-30

Wednesday:
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
John 15:9-17

Thursday:
Acts 13:13-25
John 13:16-20

Friday:
Acts 13:26-33
John 14:1-6

Saturday:
Acts 13:44-52
John 14:7-14

Next Sunday:
Acts 14: 21-27
Revelation 21: 1-5a
John 13: 31-33a, 34-35