

SUNDAY PLUS

Shared love

Reach out

By James Gallogly



Efforts to develop St Vincent de Paul confraternities within our prison was a stop-start affair. We were blessed by the commitment and vigour of our first president. He was acutely aware that there are many hardships before entering the kingdom of God and owned his part in them. He provided a wonderful example of what can be achieved when putting others first.


Just as the early apostles sought to put “fresh heart” into the new disciples, so my colleagues and I provide endless encouragement to our flock. We share the boundless love that God has for each and every one of us in the hope that tired, troubled and restless hearts can embrace the good news.

St Vincent de Paul is alive and well in spirit in our prison, if not as formally as a world of scrutiny and evidence would like. His statue looks down benignly from a corner of the chapel, a constant inspiration and call to alms. Challenging us to “love one another” as Jesus did is a tough one at the best of times especially where there are examples of this being flagrantly abandoned.

The call to love, however, is heard in the most inconspicuous of places and where least expected. In the recognition of another's pain, loss and despair the men are continually reaching out to one another; listening over a brew, gifting a shower gel on arrival or a vape at bad news, can all start the process that “will wipe away the tears from their eyes”.



James Gallogly is a lay Catholic chaplain in a UK prison.

Lord of love, sometimes I don't feel very loving and caring towards others and I'd much rather look after my own comfort and convenience. Help me to look beyond myself and teach me to be generous.  Amen.

Unselfish love

By Sr Janet Fearn FMDM

You might not remember the 2016 World Triathlon Series in Cozumel, Mexico, but you might well remember seeing the news coverage of triathlete Alistair Brownlee, stopping in his tracks when his brother Jonathan (Jonny) – then in the lead – staggered, ready to collapse with the effects of sunstroke and exhaustion. Alistair could have easily continued running, to win the race. Instead, he

stopped, pulled Jonny's arm across his own shoulder and almost carried him to the finishing line, a few hundred metres ahead. On reaching their shared goal, Alistair pushed Jonny into second place, happily taking the third place for himself.

Love will do extraordinary things which are often unplanned, spontaneous and without counting the cost. The Brownlee brothers afterwards joked about what had happened. If asked, they might have shrugged off their example of their love for each other and yet, there it was for the whole world to see. Love is real. Love is unselfish.

Sr Janet Fearn is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.

Be men and women with others and for others, real champions in the service of others.

Pope Francis

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

16-18 May:
Jubilee of Confraternities



You have a specific and important mission, that of keeping alive the relationship between the faith and the cultures of the peoples to whom you belong. You do this through popular piety. When, for example, you carry the crucifix in procession with such great veneration and love for the Lord, you are not performing a simple outward act; you are pointing to the centrality of the Lord's paschal mystery, his passion, death and resurrection which have redeemed us, and you are reminding yourselves first, as well as the community, that we have to follow Christ along the concrete path of our daily lives so that he can transform us... You express this faith, born of hearing the word of God, in ways that engage the senses, the emotions and the symbols of the different cultures ... In doing so you help to transmit it to others, and especially the simple persons whom, in the Gospels, Jesus calls “the little ones”.

Pope Francis

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

Monday:
Acts 14:5-18
John 14:21-26

Tuesday:
Acts 14:19-28
John 14:27-31a

Wednesday:
Acts 15:1-6
John 15:1-8

Thursday:
Acts 15:7-21
John 15:9-11

Friday:
Acts 15:22-31
John 15:12-17

Saturday:
Acts 16:1-10
John 15:18-21

Next Sunday:
Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
John 14:23-29