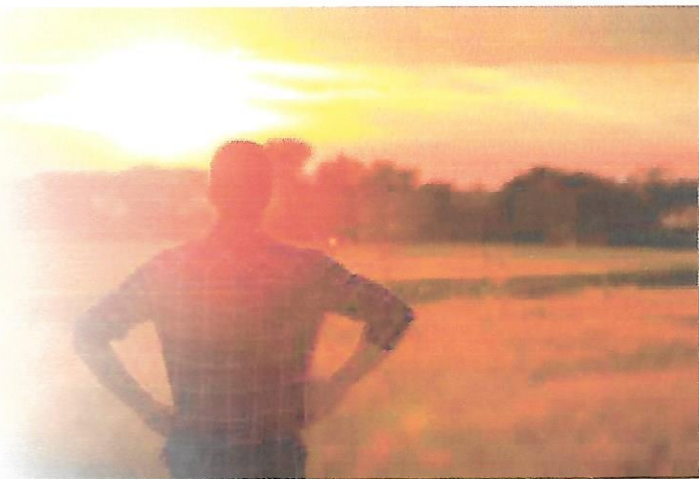


SUNDAY PLUS

Your word is truth – is it?

Bringing the past up to date

by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.



One of the ways we try to make sense of the present is by consulting the past. When we try to figure out why things have turned out the way they have, we often search the past for an explanation. So, ancient voices are listened to with a new attentiveness and old texts are consulted with a new eye. That human effort of making sense of the present by rereading the past is one that was used widely in the early Church.

The activity of bringing the past up to date is one in which we all engage from time to

time. We review the past in the light of a new experience and in the process we begin to see a shape to our story. Certain people and dates become more important; an encounter once regarded as forgettable is seen to be directly related to what is happening now. We begin to see how our previous history contains pointers to our present situation, how everything is connected. A pattern slowly emerges. Things begin to make sense.

In today's first reading Peter is claiming the past as a reinforcement of the present. A past,

once skimmed over, now becomes part of the Church's sequence of references; what was said before becomes personal territory. The past takes on a new significance because of what is happening now. As the past throws light on the present, so the present captures the full meaning of the past. In that sense we can see how the past is not dead: it just bides its time until the full truth can be discovered.

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, www.rpbooks.co.uk.

True or false?

by Martin Delaney

As an actor, I am forever looking for the truth. In fact, the nature of an actor's job is "to raise the level of consciousness in the world by holding the mirror of truth to it", a wonderful acting teacher once taught me.

In our work, we are led by the word. Every clue, every hint, every detail that we mine for building our characters, comes from the script. The truth that we search for, embedded in this writing, is ever important; it is unchanging – just like God.

What happens when we drop the character and walk away from the role? For me, this is where the truth of a different word really

counts. Our authenticity beyond the set is important because it is here that I practise love. It is here that I try to live in God, in order to receive God in me.

As an actor I observe human nature – but it needs the grace of God.

Martin Delaney is an actor, writer and personal development coach. He is best-known for his work in Oscar-winning *Zero Dark Thirty*, *Now You See Me 2* and George Clooney's *Catch 22*.

Word of God, may my human words reflect your divine message of love. Amen.

Lean on me

by Sr Janet Fearnis FMDM

"Lean on, when you need a friend, call me, I'll be there.

Lean on, when you have a load, call me, I'll lend a hand.

Lean on, when you're down and out, call me, I'll lift you up.

Lean on, lean on, lean on. Call me, call me, call me..."

... and how many of us felt deeply moved when a hospital choir sang "Lean on me"? They sang at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, perhaps sometimes stretched beyond their limits as they provided care for others.

In many care homes, one or more staff moved into the home in order to look after our loved ones whom

the lockdown prevented us from visiting. Because of their love, my mother declared, "I'm so happy, I could dance."

On World Communications Day, let us communicate our heartfelt gratitude to those wonderful people who asked us to call on them in our hour of need. Thank you and may God bless you.

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

"We are united by faith in Jesus Christ, the one Saviour, who set us free by his precious blood and his glorious resurrection. We are united by our desire for his word that guides our steps."

Pope Francis

Today:
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
1 John 4:11-16
John 17:11-19

Monday:
Acts 19:1-8
John 16:29-33

Tuesday:
Acts 20:17-27
John 17:1-11

Wednesday:
Acts 20:28-38
John 17:11-19

Thursday:
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
John 17:20-26

Friday:
Acts 25:13-21
John 21:15-19

Saturday:
Mass in the Morning
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
John 21:20-25

Next Sunday:
Vigil Mass
Genesis 11:1-9
Exodus 19:3-8, 16-20
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Joel 3:1-5

Romans 8:22-27
John 7:37-39
Mass During the Day
Acts 2:1-11
Galatians 5:16-25
John 15:26-27; 16:12-15