

SUNDAY PLUS

One more chance

The God who notices

By Fr Denis McBride
C.Ss.R.

The great revelation to Moses in today's first reading shows a God of action who is moved to act on what he sees: "I have seen... I have heard... I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them... to a land... where milk and honey flow." God is not simply an onlooker, one who gazes but keeps his distance. That is why the all-seeing eye of God is a radically incomplete image of God: God is more than an unblinking onlooker who spends an eternity staring at people's mistakes and misfortunes.

Through Moses we know that God sees and is moved

to act on it. But the question is whether God will stay awake to human suffering. Will God keep on caring for people or will the day come when God will run out of mercy?

The answer to that question is given in the revelation to Moses. The answer is in the name of God, "I Am who I Am". The very name of God affirms God's fidelity and staying power. God will never be a "has-been" God for he will always be "I Am". Our Lord's name is an assurance of his presence: "I'll be there." So there is the good news that God does not take people on and then drop them at the first sign of trouble. God does not flirt with people. Over and against our infidelity, the name of God affirms God's unchanging fidelity to us.

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



The Annunciation of the Lord

"Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word... See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter... Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord,' she says, 'be it done to me according to your word.'"

St Bernard of Clairvaux

"The Gospel tells us that, after the annunciation of the angel, she went in haste, she lost no time, she went immediately out to serve. She is the Virgin of readiness, Our Lady of Readiness... In many of life's moments when we stand in need of her help, her protection, let us remember that she does not make us wait: she is Our Lady of Readiness, she immediately goes to serve."

Pope Francis

Loving Lord,
when I blunder
through life, you
always give me a
second chance to
make good. Help
me to make use
of those golden
opportunities.
✠ Amen.

Feast of the week
Friday 25 March

The Annunciation of the Lord

Annunciation carol

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

"For know, a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

S. Baring-Gould

Today:
Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15
1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
Luke 13:1-9

Monday:
2 Kings 5:1-15
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday:
Daniel 3:25, 34-43
Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday:
Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday:
Jeremiah 7:23-28
Luke 11:14-23

Friday:
Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10
Hebrews 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38

Saturday:
Hosea 5:15 - 6:6
Luke 18:9-14

Next Sunday:
Joshua 5:9-12
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32