

SUNDAY PLUS

Strike the balance

God of the living

By Fr Denis McBride
C.Ss.R.

To the Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection, Jesus does not speak of the resurrection of all people, but resurrection from the dead of those people who “are judged worthy” to share the new age. As children of God, they cannot die again; therefore, marriage does not apply to them. There will be no need to propagate the human race or to ensure legal succession; therefore, the question of the Sadducees is irrelevant. Since the resurrected are all sons and

daughters, their relationship is as members of the same family. And it doesn't make heavenly sense to talk about marrying one's sister.

Jesus appeals to the scripture that the Sadducees do accept: Moses called God the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob. If the Lord is God of the living, then he will continue to be so to those who have died. Relationship with God does not end in death: to God all people are alive.

Jesus' argument with the Sadducees may seem too remote and abstruse to our modern ears. However, religious arguments are rarely simple to understand but

sometimes they are worth staying with. Through his argument Jesus reveals something of his own image of God – a God who keeps his promise to his faithful ones even when they die. Jesus does more than argue that case: the time comes when he himself becomes the argument. He undergoes death and he experiences the glory of resurrection when God refuses to let death have the last word. The risen Jesus is the ultimate argument against the Sadducees.

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

What is the most loving thing to do?

By Katie Knight

The toddler struggled to carry two over-large baby animal calendars which she had “helped” Daddy to choose. Torn between a tantrum in the shop or tears at home – he'd opted for Mummy's supportive diplomacy and a (possibly tearful) handover in the privacy of their home. In the meantime, he tried to prevent the little one tripping over the calendars securely held in her close embrace.

We've all been there. An act of loving kindness can hold unexpected challenges and choices so that it's a struggle to keep the balance. The “path of least resistance” has its own consequences. It's so easy to give in and allow a demanding Little Johnny to stay up later than usual, but then it's difficult to make sure that he's awake, ready for school and not too grumpy the following morning.

Sometimes the solution is to ask, “What is the most loving thing to do?” The answer might be surprising!

Katie Knight, a former midwife, is now looking forward to her eighth great-grandchild.

Jesus places himself above the controversy. Jesus, always above. On the one hand, he acknowledges that the tribute to Caesar must be paid — for all of us too, taxes must be paid — because the image on the coin is his; but above all he recalls that each person carries within him another image — we carry it in the heart, in the soul — that of God, and therefore it is to him, and to him alone, that each person owes his own existence, his own life.

Pope Francis

Feast of the week

Thursday 11 November

St Martin of Tours

(316 or 336-397)

Martin was only ten when he secretly started attending Christian gatherings. The son of a senior cavalry officer in the Roman army, Martin was obliged, at the age of fifteen, to follow in his father's footsteps.

Martin was possibly only eighteen years old when, in the bitter cold of winter, he rode towards Amiens in modern-day France. Just outside the city gates,

he took pity on a thinly dressed beggar, pulled off his thick cloak and, with his sword, cut it in half, giving half to the shivering man.

That night, tradition says Martin dreamed of the man – except that it was Jesus wearing the half-cloak – who told a group of angels, “Martin, who is still but a catechumen, clothed me with this robe.”

Shortly after his vision, Martin was baptised. He left the army two years later, eventually becoming a hermit and, later, the Bishop of Tours. London's church of St-Martin-in-the-fields is named after him.

Sr Janet Fearn FMDM

Loving Lord, help me in my decision-making. Let me see what is the most loving thing to do in my circumstances because it is there that you are ready and waiting for me. Amen.

Today:
2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14
2 Thessalonians 2:16 – 3:5
Luke 20:27-38

Monday:
Titus 1:1-9
Luke 17:1-6

Tuesday:
Titus 2:1-8, 11-14
Luke 17:7-10
(W): All Saints of Wales (Feast)

Wednesday:
Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17
John 2:13-22

Thursday:
Philemon 7-20
Luke 17:20-25

Friday:
2 John 4-9
Luke 17:26-37

Saturday:
3 John 5-8
Luke 18:1-8

Next Sunday:
Malachi 3:19-20
2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Luke 21:5-19