

SUNDAY PLUS

Love one another

Bonds of love

By
Brian Fahy

A group of football supporters following their team in Europe came into contact with an orphanage in Ukraine. Going home to Scotland they set up a support group

for those children and when the war in Ukraine began, they went back to bring the youngsters out of harm's way. Television film showed the children on a coach, heading out to Poland, their

faces a mixture of anxiety, confusion and hope. Without parents and now without homeland, they began once more to try and live a settled life.

When Jesus was about to leave this world, taken from it so cruelly by an unjust death, his disciples must have felt completely lost in this world. Their hope was for something glorious to happen, for a better world to appear, under the leadership of the preacher of Nazareth, but now all was shattered. To counter these feelings Jesus makes a promise to them. "I will not leave you orphans."

To be orphaned is to be without roots, to have no-one to belong to in the world, no place to really call home. The connections of life and love have been torn from you. You are on your own now. The Lord, therefore, sends the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, to be with us, to live in us and to connect us to one another. We are sisters and brothers in the Lord. This new family will open its heart to all and embrace all in bonds that cannot be broken.

Brian Fahy describes himself as an "apprentice poet". His website is to be found at www.errispoetry.com.


Love

Love gives naught but itself and takes naught but from itself.
Love possesses not nor would it be possessed;
For love is sufficient unto love.
When you love you should not say, "God is in my heart,"
but rather, "I am in the heart of God."
And think not you can direct the course of love, for love,
if it finds you worthy, directs your course.
Love has no other desire but to fulfil itself.

Kahlil Gibran

We cannot turn back, and skid off the road... The road is that of freedom in the Holy Spirit who sets us free in a continuous discernment of God's will, to make progress on this road without turning back, and without skidding.

Pope Francis

Lord, help me to keep on going even when I am exhausted. Give me the energy I need to see me through the day. Help me to love you with every fibre of my being.  Amen.

Feast of the week
Thursday 18 May

The Ascension

Dear brothers and sisters, the Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is no longer in a specific place in the world as he was before the Ascension. He is now in the lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us. In our life we are never alone: we have this Advocate who awaits us, who defends us. We are never alone: the crucified and risen Lord guides us. We have with us a multitude of brothers and sisters who, in silence and concealment, in their family life and at work, in their problems and hardships, in their joys and hopes, live faith daily and together with us bring the world the lordship of God's love, in the Risen Jesus Christ, ascended into Heaven, our own Advocate who pleads for us.

Pope Francis

Today:
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21

Monday:
Acts 16:11-15
John 15:26 - 16:4

Tuesday:
Acts 16:22-34
John 16:5-11

Wednesday:
Acts 17:15, 22 - 18:1
John 16:12-15

Thursday:
Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20

Friday:
Acts 18:9-18
John 16:20-23

Saturday:
Acts 18:23-28
John 16:23-28

Next Sunday:
Acts 1:12-14
1 Peter 4:13-16
John 17:1-11