

SUNDAY PLUS

Be generous

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

God the gambler



The parable in today's Gospel explores different attitudes to God. The first two servants have a completely different attitude to their master than the third. They know that their master is expecting them to share his business attitude for the sake of possible advantage. They know that he expects them to travel on his trust and share his go-for-broke style. The third servant shares none of this, regarding his master as a fierce, exacting man. He is afraid of his master, so he plays out his own fearful attitude by becoming an undertaker to the talent he has received. Instead of rejoicing in his talent he organises a quiet funeral service. To lose nothing, he risks nothing. And, not surprisingly, nothing comes of it.


The defence of the third servant is interesting. He focuses on the reputed meanness of the master, not on his own proven lack of enterprise.

He takes the problem away from where it is – with himself – and places the problem where it is not – with his master. He portrays the master as harsh; there is no admission that his own creativity leans towards the cemetery. He ends up burying part of himself. And we should only bury what is dead.

We can ask ourselves how we imagine God, and how the way we see God influences our

attitudes and behaviour. Is God an exacting master who demands that we return to him exactly what we have been given? Is God a gambler and an adventurer, who lives in the fond hope that we will live in the spirit of trust?

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

Dearest Jesus, open my eyes, let me see the little ways in which I can give encouragement and support to those who need it. Let me give of my time instead of wanting to keep it for myself.  Amen.

Time matters

By Natalie Claviera

Time. Some would say, especially in this digital age, it is our most precious commodity. Do we ever have enough? What would we do if we had more? It is the one thing we can't change; we can't go back in it, we can't go forward either, but we can live, ever more present, in the present. Allowing yourself to have a presence in the present is probably the best way we can use it. To give your time to someone, especially someone in need, is probably the greatest gift we can all afford to give: not a rushed quick moment, to truly give your undivided attention to another is a gift that will stay long after you have left. As we hear today, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." We all have memories of those that have left a lasting impression on us: how can we recreate more timeless moments with those around us?

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This culture of waste has also made us insensitive to wasting and throwing out excess foodstuffs, which is especially condemnable when, in every part of the world, unfortunately, many people and families suffer hunger and malnutrition. There was a time when our grandparents were very careful not to throw away any leftover food.

Pope Francis

Feast of the week
Monday 18 November

Our Lady of the Rosary of Chiquinquirá, Colombia

According to Colombian tradition, in the mid-sixteenth century, the de Santana family commissioned Spanish artist Alonso de Narvaez to paint a picture of Our Lady of the Rosary, using local materials. In 1562, the picture was hung in a small chapel where sunlight and a leaking roof soon caused considerable damage. Not wanting to dump the faded painting, in 1577 the de Santana family moved it to Chiquinquirá, where it was stored in an unused room that had formerly been the family oratory.

A Spanish woman, Maria Ramos, cleaned the neglected chapel, found the picture and hung it up. She liked the painting even if it was difficult to see it clearly. Then, on Friday 26 December 1586, the faded, damaged image was suddenly and apparently miraculously repaired and restored to its original colours and brightness. The fame of the transformation spread throughout Colombia.

Pilgrims came from across the country to pray before the picture of Our Lady of the Rosary of Chiquinquirá.

Today: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Matthew 25:14-30

Monday: 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-64
Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday: 2 Maccabees 6:18-31
Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday: 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31
Luke 19:11-28

Thursday: 1 Maccabees 2:15-29
Luke 19:41-44

Friday: 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59
Luke 19:45-48

Saturday: 1 Maccabees 6:1-13
Luke 20:27-40

Next Sunday: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Matthew 25:31-46