

SUNDAY PLUS



LIVERPOOL 2018
ADOREMUS

Stand up for God!

Discipleship and friendship



know, is not as much a question of having insight into each other's lives as it is of mutually touching each other in affection and understanding. Friendship, as St John of the Cross puts it, is a question of attaining boldness with each other. When we have touched each other's lives deeply, we can be bold with each other. We can then ask each other for help, ask each other to be present without needing an excuse, or share our deepest feelings. Good friendship inspires boldness."

First we have to establish a personal friendship with Jesus, so deep that we can be bold with him in prayer, sharing our deepest feelings, which, in turn, will inspire us to be bold and become disciples of the Lord.

The disciples themselves had boldness by the bucketful as they had been friends with the Lord from the beginning, "And you too will be witnesses because you have been with me from the beginning."

Bill Bryson, in his book, *A History of Nearly Everything*, says, "If this book has a lesson, it is that we are awfully lucky to be here. We really are at the beginning of it all. And that, almost certainly, will require a lot more than lucky breaks."

We need, therefore, as disciples of the Lord, more than ever to go boldly and witness to the God of love.

Dom. Dominic Mansi OSB is a monk of Downside Abbey.

by Dom. Dominic
Mansi OSB

"Love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage" goes a refrain from an old song. Discipleship and friendship also complement each other.

Ronald Rolheiser has this to say about friendship: "Friendship, as we

Radical witness

by Vicky Cosstick

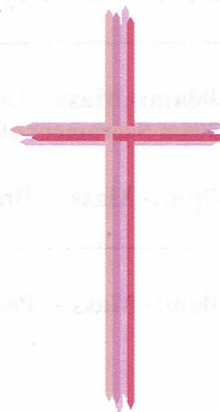
Fr John Sullivan, beatified in 2017 in Dublin, was a Jesuit who had converted to Catholicism and gave up a wealthy, fashionable and privileged life to serve the sick and the poor in Ireland during the first part of the last century. He took on a lifestyle of asceticism, praying every moment that he could keep it up. His holiness was said to shine out from

him. Miracles were credited to him even during his lifetime, and his relics include the "Sullivan cross" he carried on his visits to the sick.

Few of us are able to offer such a radical example of witness, but we often choose to make quiet sacrifices of our time, leisure and money to help a stranger, neighbour or friend, or make an effort to find time for prayer. In these acts, however small, we can show others how we are inspired by our faith and the model of those who have led saintly lives.

Vicky Cosstick is a Catholic writer.

**Holy
Spirit
of love,
be my
life and
my love.
Amen.**



Hubble's proof

by Daniel Kearney

"The universe is still expanding," I said. "And what's it expanding into?" the reply came from one of the pupils. "I have no idea," I replied, "but that it is what the scientists tell us." "It's a mystery," announced another pupil "we will never know." But that hasn't stopped people from speculating. From the ancient Greeks to the irrepressible Brian Cox there continues to be debate about and interest in the origins of the universe. For some, it is just there: it has no cause and no explanation, for others it is the creation of God. As the Letter to the Romans states, "Ever since the creation of the world, the invisible existence of God and his everlasting power have been clearly seen by the mind's understanding of created things."

For some, the Hubble telescope – which first started sending photographs back to earth twenty-eight years ago today, has given us a unique insight into God's everlasting power and his created works.

Daniel Kearney is a former headmaster and teacher of Religious Studies.

"The Spirit is given to us by the Father and leads us back to the Father. The entire work of salvation is one of "re-generation", in which the fatherhood of God, through the gift of the Son and the Holy Spirit, frees us from the condition of being orphans into which we had fallen.

Pope Francis

Today:
Acts 2:1-11
Galatians 5:16-25
John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Monday:
James 3:13-18
Mark 9:14-29

Tuesday:
James 4:1-10
Mark 9:30-37

Wednesday:
James 4:13-17
Mark 9:38-40

Thursday:
James 5:1-6
Mark 9:41-50

Friday:
James 5:9-12
Mark 10:1-12

Saturday:
James 5:13-20
Mark 10:13-16

Next Sunday:
Deuteronomy 4:32-34. 39-40
Romans 8:14-17
Matthew 28:16-20