

SUNDAY PLUS



LIVERPOOL 2018
ADOREMUS

Alleluia!

Rising to the occasion



by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

If death had spoken the final word about Jesus, it would only have been a matter of time before everything about Jesus would have been reduced to a curiosity, a forgettable footnote in the crowded history of lost causes. The memory of Jesus and all he had done would have faded within a couple of generations. But our Father had the last word – as indeed the first.

This tomb is a special sanctuary because it will witness what no other human being will witness – God’s refusal to leave his beloved son in the keep of death. God refuses to let Jesus rest in peace. No RIP will ever be written over his borrowed tomb.

In this darkest of places there shines the brightest light in the world. This tomb becomes a dumb witness to God’s liberating and lasting love for Jesus, his respect for all Jesus’ struggles and his eternal gratitude to his beloved son. Resurrection is our Father’s response to the cross, his defiant answer to

the powers that hoped violence could keep Jesus in its hold. In raising Jesus from the dead God raises every value Jesus stood for, every story he ever told, every preference he ever made and every purpose he ever hallowed. All that Jesus did and said will be given new life and new significance.

The tomb can never be the permanent address of Jesus. In the powerful love of the Father, Jesus has no alternative but to rise to the occasion.

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

Hope regained

by Dr Lucy Russell

Last summer I took a job supporting Year 6 children moving from primary to secondary school. As it had been a while since I had done work like this, I was a little nervous about the first school visit. It went well and I was just beginning to relax when my husband sent a text. There was restructuring at work. His job wasn’t going to be there anymore. Just as things seemed to be getting straight, everything was turned upside down. I drove home in tears and stopped by the beach. I walked towards the sea, ever closer to the water’s edge. How cold would the water be? I paused as a wave broke just above my toes. Another step, a sharper intake of breath, and then there was peace. Calm, methodic breath in and out,

in time with the waves. All I could see in front of me was the vastness of the ocean. It was only money. We would be okay.

Dr Lucy Russell is the author of Who Do You Say You Are?, available from Redemptorist Publications: www.rpbooks.co.uk

Risen Lord, fill the hearts of everyone I know and love with your Easter joy. Bring new life to those who feel overburdened with sadness. Amen.

Cause for joy

by Dr Lawrence Osborn

It’s just a week since Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Now he is dead. His disciples are in hiding, their hopes in tatters. But, it seems, worse is to come. They hear that the tomb has been opened and his body is gone. Is he not even to be allowed to rest in peace? They run to the tomb, fearing the worst.

But what do they find? An empty tomb, yes. But Jesus’ grave clothes have been folded neatly, even reverentially. This is not the work of tomb robbers. And light begins to dawn for the disciple whom Jesus loved: he is not here! Life has triumphed over death. He is risen! The world’s victory has been short-lived. And, just as surely as he is risen, their hopes and ours for the

coming of the kingdom of God will be fulfilled. Alleluia!

Dr Lawrence Osborn is an Anglican Franciscan Tertiary.

“**The Risen Shepherd tirelessly seeks us, his brothers and sisters, wandering in the deserts of this world. He goes in search of all those lost in the labyrinths of loneliness and marginalisation... and takes upon himself children and adolescents who are deprived of their carefree innocence.**

Pope Francis

Today:
Acts 10:34, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
John 20:1-9

Monday:
Acts 2:14, 22-33
Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday:
Acts 2:36-41
John 20:11-18

Wednesday:
Acts 3:1-10
Luke 24:13-35

Thursday:
Acts 3:11-26
Luke 24:35-48

Friday:
Acts 4:1-12
John 21:1-14

Saturday:
Acts 4:13-21
Mark 16:9-15

Next Sunday:
Acts 4:32-35
1 John 5:1-6
John 20:19-31