

# SUNDAY PLUS

Follow the call

## His Master's Voice

by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

There are some voices we recognise as real because we believe that the speaker is trying to face the complexity of life with honesty and courage. There are other speakers we suspect are just prattling on, tuned to making the right noises in an everlasting effort to please and get elected.

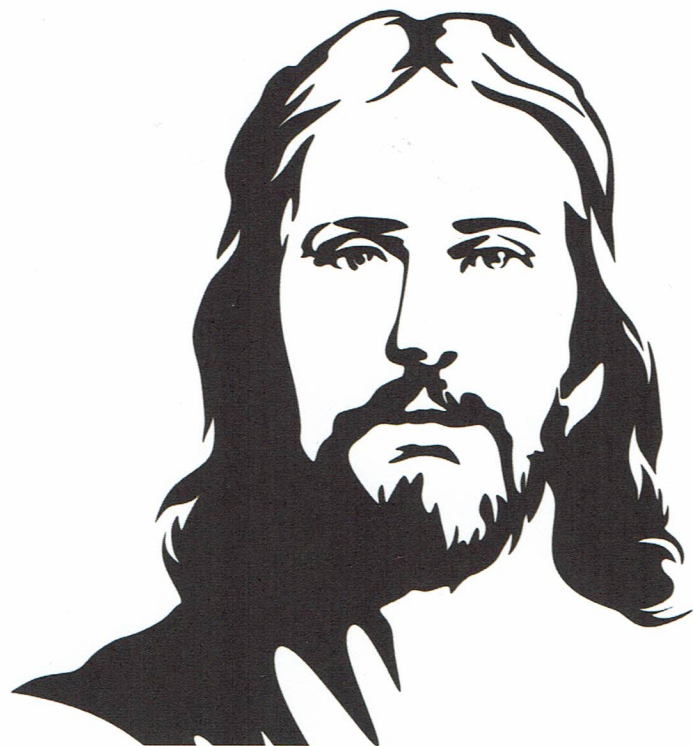
Today's Gospel gives us an image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, someone who hopes that people will listen to him and come to recognise his voice as the one that does address who they are and where they are; one that leads them without disguise and without pretence.

Jesus' way of being human is shown above all by his love. To be a human being does not mean the same as being human. In virtue

of our birth we are all human beings; but we have to learn what it means to be truly human in our world. Jesus teaches us that. He takes our inhumanity on his back and carries it to the cross. His way of the cross is his most authentic voice: it speaks of the shepherd willing to die for his sheep. He dies for what he believes in. He is his loving word.

The voice of Jesus forever calls us. It calls to a place deep within us, the place that recognises the voice of the one who loves us with an everlasting love. And when we hear that voice speak, we know it belongs to no stranger.

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk)



## Mission in marriage


by Dr Lucy Russell

"I talked about it to God," I said to my friend, who is a youth chaplain, "and this is what I said..." Job done, I thought. I'd prayed about what it was I wanted. I'd outlined my position and my thinking. "Okay," my friend replied, "you talked, but did you listen to what God said?" That took the wind out of my sails.

Relationships require two-way communication. They are not one-sided. As well as talking to each other, you also have to listen to each other and abide with one another. It isn't always easy. Good communication skills involve listening, explaining, responding and understanding without getting

upset. A wedding may be seen as a celebration of a successful, committed relationship. But this is not the end: it is the beginning of a marriage and a much deeper conversation, which needs the total participation of both parties.

Dr Lucy Russell is the author of *Who do you say you are?*, available from Redemptorist Publications: [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk)

**Living Lord, call me to follow you, but give me the strength to be faithful in whatever way you call me  Amen.**

## Listen and follow

by Sr Janet Fearnis FMDM

"I'm going to be a nun when I grow up." Aged five, self-interest directed my planned future: my mother had described nuns as very happy people and I liked the idea of being happy. I also intended to care for pigs and chickens, just like the community in the convent my family visited a few days before my announcement. I can still visualise the huge, newly-farrowed sow which, thrillingly, tried to climb over the gate when we approached the pen. Subsequently, during forty-five years of religious life, thirteen of them in Africa, I've cared for chickens, ducks, guineafowl and rabbits – and no pigs. Was my

childhood ambition fulfilled? Well, not quite in the way I'd planned aged five but that's part of growing up, isn't it? How many prospective film stars, ballerinas and train drivers eventually opt for a very different journey through life? If we listen and follow, God's call comes in ways beyond our childhood plans.

Sr Janet Fearnis is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.

**"Trust-filled prayer is a response of a heart open to encountering God face to face, where all is peaceful and the quiet voice of the Lord can be heard in the midst of silence."**

Pope Francis

Today:  
Acts 13:14, 43-52  
Apocalypse 7:9, 14-17  
John 10:27-30

Monday:  
Acts 11:1-18  
John 10:1-10

Tuesday:  
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26  
John 15:9-17

Wednesday:  
Acts 12:24 – 13:5  
John 12:44-50

Thursday:  
Acts 13:13-25  
John 13:16-20

Friday:  
Acts 13:26-33  
John 14:1-6

Saturday:  
Acts 13:44-52  
John 14:7-14

Next Sunday:  
Acts 14:21-27  
Apocalypse 21:1-5  
John 13:31-35