

SUNDAY PLUS

With the eyes of a child...



Beginning together

by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

Every great religion has sacred stories which account for the beginning of creation and the human race. The book of Genesis has two stories of creation,

the second of which we hear in today's first reading. God fashions man of dust from the soil and then breathes into his nostrils a breath of life. God's breath is man's life. When God plants a garden amidst the wasteland, this garden becomes man's first address. He inhabits a beautiful place in Eden, but the wasteland still surrounds his domain.

The man God creates is the human race; he embodies in his person the whole of humanity. He is not one human being among many; he is the Human. To relieve man's aloneness, God begins work at creating a helper. Then there is the striking and comical image of God creating all the beasts and the birds which he brings to man to see if he will name any of them "helper". There is a long procession of candidates for the post: man gives names to them all, but none is named helper. After the interviews, man is still alone.

Clearly, God must think again.

So the Lord makes the man fall into a deep sleep and then takes something from him. What is taken is enclosed in flesh to become a new creature, a woman. The original man makes two creatures: an individual man and an individual woman. When God brings the woman to the man, this time there is great relief and success as the man exclaims, "At last!"

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

Loving Lord, you have the answers to my questions. Help me to listen and to take you seriously.  Amen.

God in the family

by Lucy Russell

Edgar is twelve and almost six feet tall. His is the box room in our 1930s semi. Although he has his own space for sleeping and other activities, he must hang his school uniform in James' wardrobe. Moving home during the pandemic wasn't a prospect we relished, but it was obvious that we needed to try and do it.

James was at home self-isolating the second time the house sale fell through, so it was impossible to keep the details of the phone call from him. "If it's meant to be, it will still happen. Leave it to Jesus. Maybe the house we want will still be available when we have sold our house, and if it's not, then God will have a better one lined up."

I should have been telling him that, but he was telling me, while he made me a cup of tea.

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

Feast of the week
Monday 4 October

St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

One day, when St Francis was travelling with Friar Masseo, one of his earliest followers, they arrived at a crossroads where three roads met, leading to Florence, Siena and Arezzo. Masseo asked: "Father, which way should we go?" St Francis replied: "By whichever road is God's will for us to take". Puzzled, Masseo asked Francis how they might know the will of God as they stood at a road junction in the midst of the Italian countryside.

To Masseo's amazement, Francis instructed him to twirl around on the spot, as children do, and to continue until Francis should tell him to stop.

Masseo obediently began to spin himself round, becoming so dizzy that he fell several times – but Francis still didn't tell him to stop.

Eventually Francis told the (now nauseous) friar to stand still and asked him in which direction he was facing. Masseo replied: "Toward Siena". St Francis said: "That is the road God wants us to take."

Adapted from The Little Flowers of St Francis

"Jesus has no house, because his house is the people; it is we who are his dwelling place; his mission is to open God's doors to all, to be the presence of God's love."

Pope Francis

Today:
Genesis 2:18-24
Hebrews 2:9-11
Mark 10:2-16

Monday:
Jonah 1:1 – 2:1, 11
Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday:
Jonah 3:1-10
Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday:
Jonah 4:1-11
Luke 11:1-4

Thursday:
Malachi 3:13-20
Luke 11:5-13

Friday:
Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2
Luke 11:15-26

Saturday:
Joel 4:12-21
Luke 11:27-28

Next Sunday:
Wisdom 7:7-11
Hebrews 4:12-13
Mark 10:17-30