

SUNDAY PLUS

Lost and found

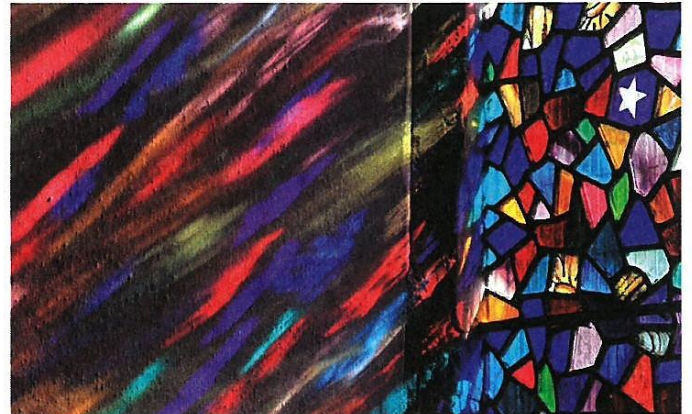
Brought to perfection

By Fr Royston Price
C.Ss.R.

In the Gospel today, Jesus talks about how many will be surprised by the eternal outcome of their life. The feast in the kingdom of God will have many unexpected guests, from all corners of the world. Our invitation isn't dependent on where we come from, what language we speak, or the culture we embrace. What matters is the content of our heart. Christ's gaze pierces the masks and

defensive layers that we present to the world, seeing instead the vulnerable, achingly true self, and calls us to follow him to the great wedding banquet. How do we respond to that invitation? By growing in love of our neighbour and closer to the Lord, letting his light shine through in our life, like a glorious stained-glass window. In following Christ, we don't lose our individual quirks and personality, but have them brought to perfection, all creating a harmonious whole in heaven.

Fr Royston Price is the Vocations Director for the London Province of the Redemptorists.



Found out in kindness

By Lucy Russell


I recently did some mentoring training and was asked what I wanted my legacy as a mentor to be. What kind of impact did I want to have? How was I going to make a difference?

It's not a question on which we spend much time reflecting. We live our lives, professional and personal, often too busy to pause to consider what impact our actions might have on the lives of others. But if you were to ask anyone you admire professionally – especially those who have found success against the odds – you are likely to discover that they credit a mentor for supporting them on the journey to where they are.

After British tennis star Emma Raducanu won the US Open, she said of Tim Henman, "Tim is honestly such a big inspiration. He has been helping me to treat one point at a time." But Tim played down his part in her success saying, "I've done very little. I've been court-side cheerleader. I think that's about the maximum."

We might not always realise it, but our everyday interactions with the people that we meet have a big impact. What impact do you have on the world around you as a disciple? If we take the time to be kind and make sure we make an impact and are known widely in our personal and professional communities for our positive contribution, then surely there is a much better chance of being recognised when we get to the narrow door.

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

Lord of life, you know how easy it is for me to get lost on my way towards you. Just like me, so many people, knowingly and unknowingly, are looking for your guidance. Be with us. Stay close and never let us leave your side.  Amen.

Feast of the week

Wednesday 24 August

St Bartholomew

Did Bartholomew (Nathanael) and Jesus know each other before Bartholomew became an apostle? It's thought that he came from Cana, where Jesus performed his first miracle, so was he at the wedding feast where jars of water were transformed into high quality wine? If Jesus could describe Bartholomew as "an Israelite in whom there is no guile" and referred to a fig tree, where was that tree and what had Jesus seen? Whatever the incident, it's a hefty compliment.

The fifth-century writers Eusebius of Caesaria and St Jerome say that Bartholomew travelled to India, where he left behind a copy of Matthew's Gospel. Others say his missionary journeys included Ethiopia, Mesopotamia, Parthia, Lycaonia and Greater Armenia, where he was eventually martyred. His relics are entombed in the church of St Bartholomew on Rome's Tiber Island.

St Bartholomew is the patron saint of leatherworkers and people troubled with nervous and neurological diseases and ailments.

"Each of us, each one of us, is that little lost lamb, the coin that was mislaid; each one of us is that son who has squandered his freedom on false idols, illusions of happiness, and has lost everything. But God does not forget us; the Father never abandons us. He is a patient Father, always waiting for us!"

Pope Francis

Today:
Isaiah 66:18-21
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Luke 13:22-30

Monday:
2 Thessalonians
1:1-5, 11-12
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday:
2 Thessalonians
2:1-3, 14-17
Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday:
Apocalypse 21:9-14
John 1:45-51

Thursday:
1 Corinthians
1:1-9
Matthew
24:42-51

Friday:
1 Corinthians
1:17-25
Matthew
25:1-13

Saturday:
1 Corinthians
1:26-31
Matthew
25:14-30

Next Sunday:
Ecclesiasticus
3:17-20, 28-29

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24
Luke 14:1, 7-14