

# SUNDAY PLUS

## Promise

# Rebuild the Temple

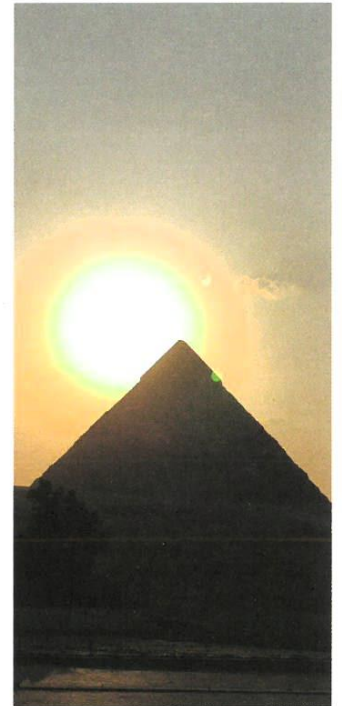
By Sr Janet Fearn FMDM

The Egyptians believed that Pharaoh Khufu was a god and so the whole kingdom united to build the Great Pyramid at Giza. They supplied the labour, food, tools and all the resources needed to construct a tomb which, taking approximately twenty-seven years to construct, required the quarrying of 2.3 million blocks – six million tonnes – of stone, ferrying many by boat along the Nile. Everyone believed that Khufu's death would be his transition into eternity and the everlasting company of their many deities. Today's engineers are still trying to determine how, 4500 years ago and without modern technology, highly skilled craftsmen, living in a temporary town adjacent to the pyramid, succeeded in building one of the historical wonders of the world.


The Egyptians kept detailed, accurate records and so we know more about the construction of the Great Pyramid than we do about the building of the Temple in Jerusalem. However, there was probably a similar scenario because the workforce believed that they were creating a house for God to live in their midst. When Jesus spoke about destroying the Temple and rebuilding it in three days, his listeners only needed to look at its vastness to know that such an action was physically impossible.

Those who heard Jesus did not realise that he was talking of the temple of his body, nor that his body was a temple precisely because God was enshrined within his heart and soul. They did not know that Jesus was foretelling his death and resurrection: that Easter Sunday would follow Good Friday.

*Sr Janet Fearn is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.*



Khufu's Great Pyramid at Giza.  
Photo: Sr Janet Fearn

Loving Lord, be with everyone who has lost hope and cannot see a way ahead in life.  
Fill them with your promise of new life. Lead them towards you.  Amen.

## Lasting Importance

By Neil Foley

Have you ever broken a promise with someone? Or has someone broken their promise with you? Over small matters this may be an inconvenience but breaking important promises can be hurtful and even lead to bitterness and resentment.

Keeping our promises shows our commitment and builds trust, whether in small matters or in crucial life events. I once heard the expression

that trust is built in drops but lost in buckets because keeping our promises is an ongoing faithfulness while breaking just one promise can ruin relationships in a single moment.

Can you imagine how the disciples must have felt on that first Holy Saturday? As if all the things Jesus had told them were broken promises? Little did they then know how the stone would be rolled away, how their lives and the world would be changed forever. Jesus rebuilt the temple in three days, just as he promised.

*Neil Foley is a lay missionary with the Redemptorists in Ireland. He lives in Wexford with his wife, Helen, and twin girls, Zélie and Martha, where he also works fulltime as an environmental scientist.*

In this time of Lent, we are preparing for the celebration of Easter, when we will renew the promises of our baptism. Let us walk in the world as Jesus did and let us make our whole existence a sign of our love for our brothers, especially the weakest and poorest, let us build for God a temple of our lives.

Pope Francis

Feast of the week  
Wednesday 6 March

St Colette  
(1381-1447)

For those in situations of violence and war.  
Lord, be their strength and protection.  
For refugees driven from their homelands.  
For children separated from their parents by war.  
For child soldiers.  
For vulnerable children.  
For the victims of abuse or trafficking.  
For hostages who wait in fear.  
For illegal immigrants.  
For those suffering from epidemic diseases.  
For those without recourse to adequate medical help.  
For doctors and nurses on duty.  
For all who will give birth tonight.  
For all those who will go to the help of others tonight.  
For all who witness to the Gospel in alien or hostile surroundings.

*From the nightly litany prayed by Poor Clare Coletts*

Today:  
Exodus 20:1-17  
1 Corinthians 1:22-25  
John 2:13-25

Monday:  
2 Kings 5:1-15  
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday:  
Daniel 3:25, 34-43  
Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday:  
Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9  
Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday:  
Jeremiah 7:23-28  
Luke 11:14-23

Friday:  
Hosea 14:2-10  
Mark 12:28-34

Saturday:  
Hosea 5:15 – 6:6  
Luke 18:9-14

Next Sunday:  
2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23  
Ephesians 2:4-10  
John 3:14-21