

SUNDAY PLUS

Speak out!

No need for a microphone!



By Sr Penny Roker RSM

With so much fake news around, it is easy to forget that the communications media can be a force for good. On World Communications Day we recognise how the press, radio, television, films and the internet enrich people's lives and break down cultural barriers... so long as what is being communicated is wholesome, of course, and that we can trust it to be true!

What Jesus communicated was truth. It was good news in every sense. His proclamation of God's favour... the truth that God loves

us... freed people to live generously, positively and peacefully in what seemed a dark and dangerous world. No-one was more aware than Jesus of how dangerous a world it was. In today's Gospel, we hear him praying for his disciples on the night of his arrest, asking God to keep them safe from corrupting influences. The truth would be their best protection. Jesus prayed that it would make them a holy people and unite them as one. Together, they would make their world a better place.

We are heirs to that sacred commission to be truth-bearers and truth-sharers. There is no need for a microphone: the way we relate and conduct ourselves speaks for itself. For the truth is powerful and it changes lives for the better. It makes believers stand out: it sets them apart. Jesus is still praying that his followers will be consecrated in truth. He means us to be a sanctifying presence in our world.

Penny Roker RSM is a Sister of the Institute of Our Lady of Mercy.

Let us take this question with us, to think about it during the day: how am I faithful to Christ? Am I able to make my faith seen with respect, but also with courage? Am I attentive to others, do I notice who is in need, do I see everyone as brothers and sisters to love?

Pope Francis

Speak – and listen

By James Gallogly

It's the twenty-first century and your task is to be "consecrated in truth" in a crumbling, Victorian prison. Is that more than a very demanding game show? Sadly, it is a challenge thrown down to many of our siblings in Christ.

The good news is that many are rising to this challenge. By accepting their failings and actively seeking to repent they have heard the call of

Jesus, that "we too should love one another". With the Lord it is never too late to respond.

How is this done in such a demanding environment? Listening tends to be the start point. A desire to give oneself without reservation is a challenge for us all. Making time for the wounds of another requires a change of heart. So begins a change of attitude, behaviour and activity. A self-destructive way of life becomes a pathway to love, appreciation and respect, a journey in the footsteps of our Saviour.

James Gallogly is a lay Catholic chaplain in a UK prison.

Feast of the week Thursday 13 May

Our Lady of Fatima

"When lovers are together, they spend hours and hours repeating the same thing: 'I love you!' What is missing in the people who think the rosary monotonous is love; and everything that is not done for love is worthless..."

Since we all need to pray, God asks of us, as a kind of daily instalment, a prayer which is within our reach: the Rosary, which can be recited either in common or

in private, either in church in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament or at home, either with the rest of the family or alone, either when traveling or while walking quietly in the fields. A mother of a family can say the Rosary while she rocks her baby's cradle or does the housework. Our day has twenty-four hours in it. It is not asking a great deal to set aside a quarter of an hour for the spiritual life, for our intimate and familiar converse with God."

*Lucia dos Santos,
Fatima visionary*

Lord of life, give me the courage to speak out, especially on behalf of those people who need compassion and support if they are to find dignity and respect.  Amen.

Today: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 | Monday: Acts 19:1-8 | Tuesday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 | Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38 | Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 | Friday: Acts 25:13-21 | Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 | Next Sunday: Vigil Mass: Genesis 11:1-9 | Exodus 19:3-8, 16-20 | Ezekiel 37:1-14 | Joel 3:1-5 | Romans 8:22-27 | John 7:37-39 | Mass During the Day: Acts 2:1-11 | Galatians 5:16-25 | John 15:26-27; 16:12-16