

SUNDAY PLUS

Jesus speaks

“Who do people say I am?”

By Michael George

A few years ago, I welcomed a new seven-year-old pupil to the school. At the end of her first term, she gave me a picture she had drawn of the school building, to which she had added some lovely words. “This school is so welcoming”, she had written. “Thank you for letting me come to this school – it’s the best.” These were beautiful words and it meant a lot to me to receive them. It was other words, however, that the pupil had written that struck me most profoundly and memorably. “You are Jesus”, she had written.

The girl was articulate. She was able to choose words advisedly. She knew perfectly well that I am not Jesus, and yet she had written, “You are Jesus”.

Jesus himself asked, “Who do people say I am?” Different people gave different answers before Peter demonstrated his belief and understanding of the identity of Jesus.

“Who do people say I am?” is a question we might ask ourselves. I am Mr George, as any pupil in the school could have said. Yet I am humbled by the realisation that in saying

“You are Jesus”, the pupil who wrote to me was declaring that she recognised that I tried to be a face of Jesus in the school, to live like Jesus, to love like Jesus.

I’ve received no greater recognition than this, nor bigger challenge. “Who do people say I am?” To whom will I be the face of Jesus today?

Michael George has worked in Catholic schools in the south of England for twenty-five years, as teacher, headteacher and chaplain.

Listen!

By Mary Bell

These days there is a great deal of interest in a person’s identity. Television series such as “Who do you think you are?” are very popular, inspiring people to explore their ancestry using all the modern aids to research. There is a fascination in discovering one’s roots, perhaps finding genetic clues to personality traits and distinctive behaviours. So, Jesus’s question about who people think he is sounds very contemporary and

the answers reflect the confusion of all who met him at that time. We, however, are left in no doubt about his ancestry by the witness of the Gospels and by his own words to his disciples. His nature is divine. If we believe this and follow him: if we not only listen to his message of peace, love and compassion but try to carry it out in our daily lives in his name, others will learn to recognise who Jesus really is.

Following many years in the classroom, retired teacher and head of RE, Mary Bell now has time to enjoy the beauties of the natural world around her.

How do we receive the Word of God? The response is clear: as one receives Jesus Christ. The Church tells us that Jesus is present in the scriptures, in his Word.

Pope Francis

Feast of the week
Saturday 20 September

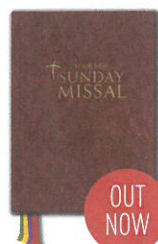
Ss Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions

The faithfulness and courage of Korean Christians has been – and still is – extraordinary. Between 1791 and 1866, approximately 10,000 are known to have died for their faith, most of them laypeople. Every priest who could be found was also executed. The Church survived, however, because of the laity who risked their lives for the Gospel. In fact, when a Chinese priest secretly entered Korea in the early nineteenth century, he found 4000 Catholics, none of whom had ever seen a priest. An unknown number, then and since, were unrecorded as they died for their faith.

Just before his execution in 1846, St Andrew Kim Taegon, aged 25 and the first Korean-born Catholic priest, spoke his last words: “This is my last hour of life, listen to me attentively: if I have held communication with foreigners, it has been for my religion and my God. It is for him that I die. My immortal life is on the point of beginning.”

Lord of hope, use my human words to make your divine Word real in the heart of everybody I meet. Amen.

Your New Sunday Missal is available from Redemptorist Publications Visit www.rpbooks.co.uk Code: 1979 ISBN: 9780852316436 Price: £19.95



Today: Isaiah 50:5-9 James 2:14-18 Mark 8:27-35	Monday: 1 Corinthians 11:17-26. 33 Luke 7:1-10	Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14. 27-31 Luke 7:11-17	Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13 Luke 7:31-35	Thursday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 7:36-50	Friday: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 8:1-3	Saturday: Ephesians 4:1-7. 11-13 Matthew 9:9-13	Next Sunday: Wisdom 2:12. 17-20 James 3:16 – 4:3 Mark 9:30-37
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