

SUNDAY PLUS

Life's mission

A service industry

Not surprisingly, there is trouble in today's Gospel when the other ten disciples hear how the two ambitious brothers have tried to set up a junta. So, to avoid more conflict, Jesus reflects on his own image of religious authority. The model for religious authority must not be the pagan rulers: they lord it over others and make their authority felt. Jesus' command to his followers is unambiguous: "This is not to happen among you."

Jesus' image of authority is the one who is servant of all. If there is primacy in his community, it is a primacy of service. We all know

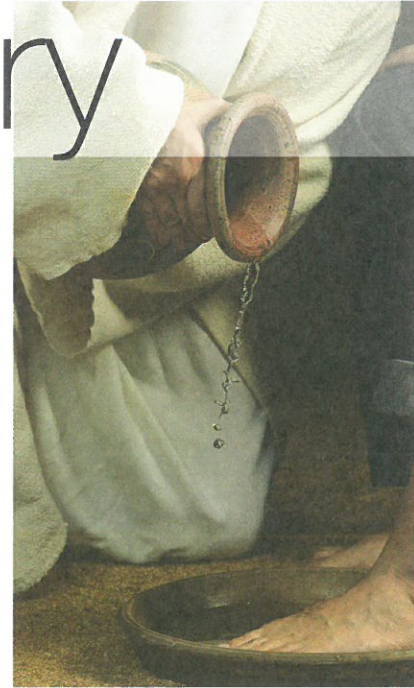
By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

people whose image of service is indistinguishable from fascism, whose insecurity makes them lord it over others, to make sure that their authority is keenly felt. As someone who fled when people wanted him as their king, Jesus is suspicious of people who need to arrange their own enthronement.

Jesus does himself what he asks others to do: to serve, not to be served; to give love freely, not to exact everyone's worship; to reach out to those in need, not to wait for adoring approval.

Christian discipleship is a service industry in which there should be no unemployment. There is work for everyone. And as we become more aware of the giftedness of all God's people, we see many new ministries arising in the Church. This should continue, until all Christians feel that their service is not only called for but is also wanted in the Church. When that happens, we shall be a serving people.

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



I continue to dream of a completely missionary Church, and a new era of missionary activity among Christian communities... Mary, Queen of the Missions, pray for us!

Pope Francis

A life of service

By Natalie Claveria

As we hear today, "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve", but what does a life of service mean? Many of us will remember this saying repeated throughout the memorial services dedicated to our late Queen Elizabeth II. However, it also conjures up images of military service, or those that work within the NHS. We can't ignore the role of mothers, and fathers too, who daily selflessly dedicate themselves

to the care and attention of their children. But it also has a broader meaning, in the sense of acknowledging those who make a real difference in our lives. A "life of service" might include caring for a loved one, praying for someone who's suffering, being a role model, engaging our youth in their faith. As Catholics, we are called to lead a "life of service" dedicating ourselves to serving the Son of Man and those around us.

In addition to being a busy mum and active in her parish, Natalie Claveria is also the Head of Sales, Distribution & Customer Experience for Redemptorist Publications.

Feast of the week
Friday 25 October

Ss Crispin and Crispinian

(d. AD 286)

Ss Crispin and Crispinian could well be described as the patron saints of the BBC television series *The Repair Shop* as they have special care for cobblers, glove makers, lace makers, lace workers, leather workers, saddle makers, saddlers, shoemakers, tanners and weavers. In fact, they are artistically shown as carrying a pair of shoes. To continue *The Repair Shop* association, after their deaths, the local bishop,

St Eligius, made a shrine for Crispinian's retrieved head. The bishop just happened to also be a goldsmith.

Although martyred in AD 286 in Soissons (modern France), very little seems to be known about the twin brothers, who preached Christianity by day and repaired shoes by night.

England's special association with Ss Crispin and Crispinian dates from the Battle of Agincourt on 25 October 1415 and the country's defeat of the French army. King Henry V apparently used Crispin and Crispinian to rally his troops, declaring that honour was more precious than gold.

Sweet Jesus, be with all missionaries everywhere, both at home and abroad and make us all messengers of your love. Amen.

Today:
Isaiah 53:10-11
Hebrews 4:14-16
Mark 10:35-45

Monday:
Ephesians 2:1-10
Luke 12:13-21

Tuesday:
Ephesians 2:12-22
Luke 12:35-38

Wednesday:
Ephesians 3:2-12
Luke 12:39-48

Thursday:
Ephesians 3:14-21
Luke 12:49-53

Friday:
Ephesians 4:1-6
Luke 12:54-59

Saturday:
Ephesians 4:7-16
Luke 13:1-9

Next Sunday:
Jeremiah 31:7-9
Hebrews 5:1-6
Mark 10:46-52