

SUNDAY PLUS

Who am I?



By Sr Penny Roker RSM

How well do we know people? Long acquaintance does not necessarily mean that we really know a person. What kind of answer might we give if an old friend suddenly turned to ask, "Who am I?" That was the question asked by Jesus and it certainly put his disciples on the spot! No-one could tell from the circles he moved in... his followers were such a diverse mix! People just assumed he was a prophet. Why wouldn't they? Jesus gave nothing away about himself. He expected everyone to work it out for themselves.

Unconcerned about where people came from, what they did or who they knew, Jesus refused to define himself in that way. His interest was in the person themselves. He saw through Peter's bravado to the rock-like qualities beneath. As for Peter, it took years in the company of Jesus before he could acknowledge, even to himself, that he had been in the presence of God all along!

What about us? Do we see to the heart of the people we know – or think we know? Even family members become strangers to us if we do not listen to what they say or take a real interest in the things that matter to them. "Who do you say I am?" is the unspoken question in many a conversation. People often yearn to be known for who they truly are. Stay long enough, look deeply enough and we will surely see something of God in everyone we meet.

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

Transforming love

By Paul Higginson

Jesus refers to himself as "the Son of Man" more than eighty times in the Gospels. He is saying: "I am one of you, flesh and blood, and this is how you should live as a man or a woman". But Peter recognises that Jesus is also the "Son of the living God". He understands that it is through Jesus ("through him, with him and in him") that we get to discover who God is.

Jesus poses the same question to us: "who do you say I am?" We know that a man called Jesus existed but we cannot

prove that he was also divine. That is a matter of faith. Can we believe with Peter that Jesus is the doorway through which we can receive and pass on the transforming power of love from a God who became like us, and in so doing, taught us how to live?

Paul Higginson is a retired teacher and author of Doing Christianity: how religion is about what you do, not what you believe. Columba Books, Dublin, 2023.

The consequence of loving the Lord is giving everything – truly everything, even our life – for him.

Pope Francis



Feast of the week

Tuesday 2 July

The Visitation

She came to me, the mother of my Lord,
and grinned with amazement at the sight.
All creation with me seemed to roar.

Grey haired, belly swollen like a gourd,
I stood to kiss her in the morning light.


She came to me, the mother of my Lord...

Blessed one! With your yes you moved us toward
the home we long for, and all things made right.

She came to me, the mother of my Lord.

All creation with me seemed to roar.

Sarah O'Brien

Lord God, take my hands, my heart, my life and my love. Let me be a messenger of your love in our world.  Amen.

Today: E&W, S
Acts 12:1-11
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
Matthew 16:13-19

Monday:
Amos 2:6-10, 13-16
Matthew 8:18-22

Tuesday:
Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12
Matthew 8:23-27

Wednesday:
Ephesians 2:19-22
John 20:24-29

Thursday:
Amos 7:10-17
Matthew 9:1-8

Friday:
Amos 8:4-6, 9-12
Matthew 9:9-13

Saturday:
Amos 9:11-15
Matthew 9:14-17

Next Sunday:
Ezekiel 2:2-5
2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Mark 6:1-6