

KINGDOM

# REVELATOR

CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ■ ISSUE 29

**A dream  
come  
true.**

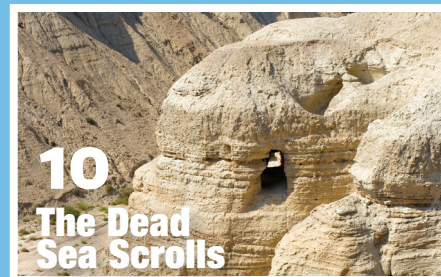
**REACH OUT  
YOUR HAND  
TO ME.**





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KINGDOM

# REVELATOR

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Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.

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Date: April 21, 2016

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## EDITORIAL

# The Month of the Rosary

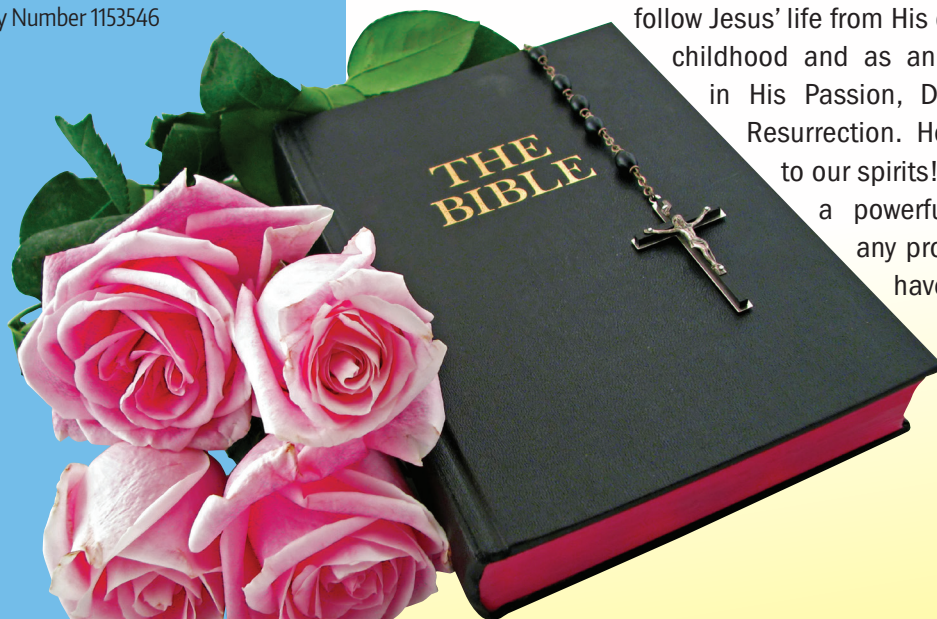


Thank you for choosing to read this edition of Kingdom Revelator. Perhaps you have seen it in your church or school or a friend has passed it on to you because they have enjoyed it and found the articles helpful. When you have read it please pass it on to someone else who may benefit from reading it. Maybe you will be inspired to contribute an article yourself?

There has been a lot written recently about the life of newly Canonised Saint Teresa of Calcutta, and her love and care for the poorest of the poor. She is a shining example for us as Jesus was always telling us to care for those less fortunate than ourselves. In today's society we can be impressed by money, celebrity and power as we seek to climb the social ladder, but Jesus tells us to beware of this. Instead He wants us to think about those people around the world, displaced from their homes because of war, poverty and natural disasters. Maybe we cannot influence governments to change the situation but we can look out for those around us who are homeless, in poverty or on the margins of society. We can take every opportunity to minister to them by making donations and helping good causes or just by giving a coffee or meal to a beggar. We can also keep them and their situation in our prayers.

Many of us pray the Rosary regularly but during this month we are reminded how valuable this devotion is. The Rosary gives us a 'blue print' for our lives, and helps us in our faith journey. As we pray using the beads we follow the life of Mary and Jesus and we entrust our lives to them through the Mysteries that we meditate on. As her adopted children we think of Our Mother Mary from the day that the Archangel Gabriel asked her to be the Mother of Jesus Christ, through to her crowning as Queen of Heaven. We

follow Jesus' life from His conception, through childhood and as an adult, culminating in His Passion, Death and Glorious Resurrection. How uplifting is this to our spirits!! The Rosary is also a powerful weapon against any problems that we may have.





TESTIMONY

# A DREAM COME TRUE



*Anu Bibin has translated an article written by **Fr T. J. Joshua**, a well-known speaker and preacher in India. He has been the Professor of the New Testament in the Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam in India for the last fifty years.*







### RYAN'S DREAM

One day six-year-old Ryan Hreljac returned home from school with a great dream. He asked his mother if she could give him \$70 to help the poor. He explained that his teacher had spoken to them about the terrible living conditions of people living in Africa. His little heart was greatly moved when he heard that many children did not even have access to clean drinking water. His dream was to build a well for the children in Africa.

### DOING THE CHORES

He was overjoyed when his mother promised to pay him for helping her with some household chores. He worked very hard, doing extra jobs and eventually he made the \$70 which he thought was enough for constructing a well. But when Ryan approached WaterCan (a charity based in Canada that help to build wells in Africa) with his savings, he was told that it was only enough to fix a hand pump for the well and they would need about \$700 more to build a proper well.

### DETERMINATION

Ryan was unshaken and was determined to provide a well. So he set about trying to do more fund raising. Through his family and friends, he approached many people to try to raise the extra money. A local newspaper ran a story about Ryan and his dream and this alerted a TV company, who sent reporters to interview him for a television programme. This TV coverage generated lots of interest in his project and he raised a huge amount of money. Soon he was able to fulfil his dream and WaterCan built a well near the Angolo Primary School in Uganda, a location chosen by Ryan.

### A VISIT TO THE WELL

His dream did not end there. As a Christmas present, their neighbours got together and bought tickets for Ryan and his mum to fly to Uganda. When they reached the small village, they saw the new well, beautifully decorated and named after Ryan. All the villagers rushed out to meet him, calling out his name, their cries filling the air with love and joy. Ryan's mother

remembers that day as the happiest and most memorable day of her life. Meanwhile money still kept rolling in for the appeal and in the next three years Ryan raised \$60,000 enabling them to fund the building of another 30 wells in different parts of Africa. Even today, Ryan still has the same dream and is working hard to provide clean water for all the people in Africa and the developing world through his charity, Ryan's Well Foundation.

### INSPIRATION

The story of Ryan's life shows us how the determination of one small boy changed the lives of very many people. It demonstrates how a loving, caring and compassionate nature can make a difference even working across the boundaries of colour and race. It is a wonderful example and a great inspiration for us.



If we have a dream or a good idea that could help other people we should not sit back thinking that it is too difficult or it will never happen. Following Ryan's example, we should take heart and give things a go. We should not be afraid to dream great things! With the Help of the Holy Spirit we too can accomplish amazing things. "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13) ⑤



REFLECTION

# LOOKING FOR



**Fr Roy Pannell, a retired priest from Chesterfield reflects on the treasures in his life.**

## FOOL'S GOLD

Forgive me when I remember things from way back when I was a little boy. It's called nostalgia. When

I was "first bike age" my friend Alan and I used to go to a piece of waste ground with bike paths criss-crossing through it. On one side, there was a mound with bushes and a small white chalk cliff. It was there that we found pieces of chalk with gold on them. Yes bright shiny gold! We told no-one about it because it was our deadly secret. It was our treasure and one day we planned to sell it for a





# TREASURE?

fortune! However, one day we did tell an older guy who laughed at us and said "That is called Fool's Gold!" Oh dear!

## YOUR TREASURE

Since then I have found other treasures, which over the years I seem to have lost! Where did my fabulous autograph books go? I had some wonderful ones; Mary Poppins (a.k.a. Julie Andrews), James Bond (a.k.a. Sean Connery), Buzz Lightyear (Joke!) Where are my vinyl records now? Where are my favourite pair of jeans from 1983 and my beautiful white mini car? All gone! What are your treasures at this moment? Where will they be in thirty years' time? Where will your wonderful trainers be in ten years from now? Or your play station, your fabulous smart phone or the skateboard that you take to bed with you each night in case someone pinches it?

## CAST ASIDE

It's almost, yes almost, as if they don't really belong to us, these treasures. We love them to bits for a while, but then they get broken or we lose interest or they simply go out of fashion. Did you see the film Toy Story? The cowboy was the boy's favourite toy for a long time and then he was cast aside. We too look after our treasures and then tire of them and replace them. That's why every year the animal welfare people remind us that, "A dog is a pet for life not just for Christmas."

## STORE UP TREASURE

Jesus said that we should try to store up treasures for ourselves in Heaven. Does that mean that I shall see my autograph books again? Sadly, no it doesn't. Does it mean that we should deposit treasure in the Bank of Heaven, saving it for a rainy day? No, not really. Although in Rome there is a bank called "The

Bank of The Holy Spirit!" I wonder what that is all about? No, Jesus is saying that there is stuff that will last, and stuff that won't. Even now, we should try to understand the difference. So what is it that will last forever?

## EVERLASTING TREASURE

You can make your own list. Mine goes something like this:

- ▶ Good FRIENDSHIPS ones that have been through good and bad times.
- ▶ Happy and beautiful MEMORIES, usually shared with others.
- ▶ My FAITH and HOPE, which has been very weak at times, but which has seen me through difficult times.
- ▶ LOVE, above all love that is given and received with friends and family.
- ▶ The desire to PRAY and to PRAISE the True and Living God.
- ▶ The GIFTS that God has given me.
- ▶ LAUGHTER and TEARS.
- ▶ MUSIC and COLOUR, I can't imagine life without these.

That's mine at this moment. However, I have to say I wish that I could find my autograph books! Not really!!

## REFLECTION

"Like children playing on the beach we have built houses of sand. The wave of time has come and the laughter of the tides has submerged everything. But we know Lord, that if our earthly treasures are destroyed you are storing for us treasures in Heaven. Give us strength to leave our earthly treasures and our games in the sand. Direct our boat toward the shores of Eternity." Lucien Deiss (adapted by Fr Roy) ⑥



FIGHTING TEMPTATION



# CLAIMING THE PRIZE



Rosemary Joy explains how we can overcome the struggles in our daily lives and become more loving.





## STRUGGLING

I don't know about you but I am constantly struggling to try and do the right thing. I want to please God and be loving and kind but it doesn't always work out that way. I wonder why I am like this. The Bible says, "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." (James 1:12) I want to love Him and to receive the promised crown of life but how do I fight against temptations? The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "Temptation is an attraction, either from outside oneself or from within, to act contrary to right reason and the commandment of God." This is saying that we can be tempted by outside influences such as our friends, or by the desires we ourselves have, to do things that are not good for us.

## RESISTING TEMPTATIONS

Temptations are presented to us in attractive ways that can really test our will power. We usually know that if we give in to temptations then we will not be doing God's will, but the desire within us can be so strong that it seems as if there is no way that we can overcome it. It is not a sin to be tempted, even our Lord was tempted! It is only a sin when we give in, rather than conquer this temptation. Resisting temptation is easier said than done. The enemy will attack us in our weakest areas, where we struggle the most. But, we must not despair, because as children of God we are strong enough to withstand any opposition. 1 John 4:4 says, "You belong to God, and you have conquered them, for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

## OUR HELPER

It is impossible to overcome temptation on our own as our human nature is too weak. God knows this. That's why He has given us the Spirit of the One who conquered the world! Yes, the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us, can and will fight for us! He is our Helper, our Strength and our Warrior. The Grace of God given to us by the Holy Spirit is all we

need to overcome any temptation. God tells us in 2 Corinthians 12:8, "My Grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." In fact when we recognise our weakness to sin and temptation and ask for His help, the power of God will be manifested all the more powerfully in us. Let us ask the Holy Spirit right now, at this moment to pour out His Grace upon us so that we will be able to recognise the tactics of the devil and overcome the desires that could lead us to sin and turn away from our loving Father. When we ask for His help the Holy Spirit will come to our aid without delay. All we need to say is "Lord, I need your Grace."

**"LET US NOT GROW  
WEARY IN DOING WHAT IS  
RIGHT, FOR WE WILL REAP  
AT HARVEST TIME, IF WE  
DO NOT GIVE UP."**

**GALATIANS 6:9**

## THE ULTIMATE PRIZE

St Paul said, "I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14) Let us not grow tired in our spiritual journey. Let us keep fighting, pressing onwards and keeping our eyes on the goal. Each one of us is called to claim the prize that is beyond compare, a reward that will infinitely exceed all that we could ever imagine. "No eye has seen, nor ear has heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9) The most wonderful free gift is to spend all eternity with God in Heaven, the perfect place where there is limitless joy and not even the slightest sorrow. Is it worth losing this for the momentary pleasures that are here today and gone tomorrow? ☪



DID YOU KNOW

# THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

1

The Dead Sea Scrolls are a large number of ancient parchments and texts that were written in the 400 years between 300 BC and 100AD.

2

The scrolls are of great significance because on them is written some of the oldest known copies of New Testament texts that were later included in the Hebrew Bible. There are also some Jewish Scriptures, letters and religious writings of the time.

3

The first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found accidentally by a group of local Bedouin shepherds in 1946. Originally they discovered seven ancient parchment scrolls that had been hidden in clay jars in a cave, at Qumran in Israel close to the Dead Sea.

4

It was not until 1951 that a team of archaeologists began to excavate the cave system around Qumran to look for other ancient scrolls. In all, 982 different texts were discovered in eleven caves in the area.



QUMRAN CAVES NEAR DEAD SEA, ISRAEL

5

Most of the texts were written in Hebrew, with some in Aramaic and a few in Greek. Most were written on parchment, with some on papyrus and one on copper.



6

It is believed that the scrolls were hidden in the caves around 70AD when the Romans attacked and destroyed Jerusalem. Initially it was thought that they had belonged to an ancient Jewish sect called the Essenes, but recently scholars think that they may have been the scrolls from the Temple in Jerusalem.

7

Many of the manuscripts had deteriorated over the centuries and were just fragments. In one cave alone there were about 15,000 fragments which the historians have spent over forty long years trying to piece together. The task is still not complete.

8

About 40% of the scrolls contain texts from the New Testament.

THE SHRINE OF BOOK IN ISRAEL, WHERE DEAD SEA SCROLLS ARE KEPT.



9

Partial or complete copies of every book in the Bible (except the book of Esther) have been identified from the scrolls.



10

Many of the ancient scrolls are now housed in the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Here they are kept at the best temperature and humidity conditions to preserve them for the future. The Copper Scroll that was found is on display in the Amman Museum in Jordan. ☪



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH



# A GROWING CHURCH IN THE UK

**WHEN ST THOMAS INTRODUCED CHRISTIANITY TO INDIA HE FOUNDED A VIBRANT CHURCH THAT HAS ENDURED THROUGH THE AGES AND IS NOW FLOURISHING WORLD-WIDE.**

## **A NEW DIOCESE**

Recently Pope Francis announced that there was to be a new Diocese created in the UK. This unusual step recognises the importance of the Syro-Malabar



Catholics' contribution to the life of the Catholic Church in this country. Traditionally within the Church, countries are split into geographical areas called dioceses, each having its own Bishop or

Archbishop and administrative and pastoral departments to oversee the Catholics within that geographical area. This new 'virtual' diocese covers the whole of the UK and will oversee the Syro-Malabar Catholics, who have moved to this country mainly from India. Their form of worship (or Rite) is different to the Roman Catholic Mass as it is derived from the Liturgy that was celebrated in Eastern Syria for many hundreds of years but it is recognized and accepted by the Roman Catholic Church. In fact, many Syro-Malabar Catholics do attend Mass in their local Parishes using the Latin Rite because their own Mass is not always available.

## **ST THOMAS**

The Syro-Malabar Church traces its history back to St Thomas, one of the twelve Apostles. It is said





that he landed in Kerala, India around the year 52, and began founding Christian communities. It is believed that St Thomas was martyred about twenty years later by a fanatic Hindu priest. The Feast of the Martyrdom of St Thomas is kept as a day of obligation for the Syro-Malabar Catholics. As the early Church in India was outside the Roman Empire it had little contact with the Roman Catholic Church that was very influential in the West. Instead it was linked with the Church that was formed in the nearby Persian Empire which later came to be known as the East Syrian

or Chaldean Church. For many centuries the Syro-Malabar Bishops were Syrians who had been appointed by the Patriarch of the Syrian Church and sent to serve in India.

### **A DILEMMA**

In 1498 Portuguese explorers led by Vasco da Gama landed in Kerala and were surprised to discover an established group of Christians



living along the West Coast of India. As it was so different to their own, they did not recognize the Christian worship that they witnessed in Kerala and assumed that the Church had somehow fallen into error over the years. So they tried to make them adopt the Latin Rite of the Church in Rome. This caused a great dilemma in the Indian Church, and caused many arguments but eventually Pope Leo XIII declared that the Rite of the St Thomas Catholics would be separate from that of the Latin Catholics for those who wished to retain their Syrian traditions. Eventually the Syro-Malabar Church split from the Syrian Church and became a branch of the Roman Catholic Church.

### **MODERN TIMES**

Following the migration of many of its families the Syro-Malabar Church today is worldwide. There are four million faithful living in five Archdioceses as well as fifteen dioceses in Kerala and twelve outside Kerala. There are already 'virtual' dioceses in Chicago in the USA and in Melbourne, Australia to serve the Keralite communities there. Worldwide, the Syro-Malabar Church is served by 7,000 priests and 30,000 nuns and there are currently around 2,300 seminarians preparing for the priesthood to serve the Church in the future. The Church runs over 3,500 schools, 180 colleges and 580 hospitals and clinics. It supports hundreds of charitable institutions, and numerous other organizations. St Alphonsa, St Kuriakose Elias Chavara, and St Euphrasia, who have been canonized within the last ten years, all belonged to the Syro-Malabar Church.

### **AN EVANGELISING CHURCH**

The last thirty years have seen a growing influx of immigrants from India to the British Isles. More than 38,000 Syro-Malabar faithful now live in England, Scotland and Wales. They are concentrated mainly in the big cities like London, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool. There are twenty-three Syro-Malabar priests working in the UK, these have been coordinated since 2013 by Dr. Thomas Parayadiyil, MST. They provide Masses in the Syro-Malabar rite and have also established catechetical programs for adults and children. Many groups of families meet together regularly to pray and support one another as they try to live out the call of Jesus to spread the Gospel message to those who do not know him. Traditionally this has been through running evangelising retreats for families and young people and this continues today in many countries, reaching out to their friends and neighbours.

### **A NEW BISHOP**

Preston, a small Lancashire town in the Diocese of Lancaster, will be the headquarters of the new diocese and the residence of the new Bishop will be there. Fr Joseph (Benny Mathew) Srampickal will move to Preston from Rome where he has been the Vice Rector of the Pontifical Urbaniana College of the Propaganda Fide. A new Cathedral in Preston will be dedicated to St. Alphonsa for the diocese. Please pray for Fr Joseph Srampickal as he is ordained Bishop of the new Diocese of Preston and for all Syro-Malabar Catholics who are working to spread the Kingdom of God. St. Thomas, Pray for us. ☪



# A Slave of Two Masters

**WHY WAS THE RICH YOUNG MAN SO UPSET WHEN JESUS ANSWERED HIS QUESTIONS? RAJNI MANOJ EXPLAINS.**

## **THE RICH YOUNG MAN**

Throughout the Bible there are stories about people who encountered Jesus and went away filled with joy and peace. But that was not always the case. There was one young man who went to Jesus and asked him what good thing he had to do to get eternal life. Jesus said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you want to enter life, then obey the commandments." The man asked which ones and Jesus replied, "Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honour your father and mother and love your neighbour as yourself." The young man said that he had kept all these commandments and asked if there was anything else that he needed to do. Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect then

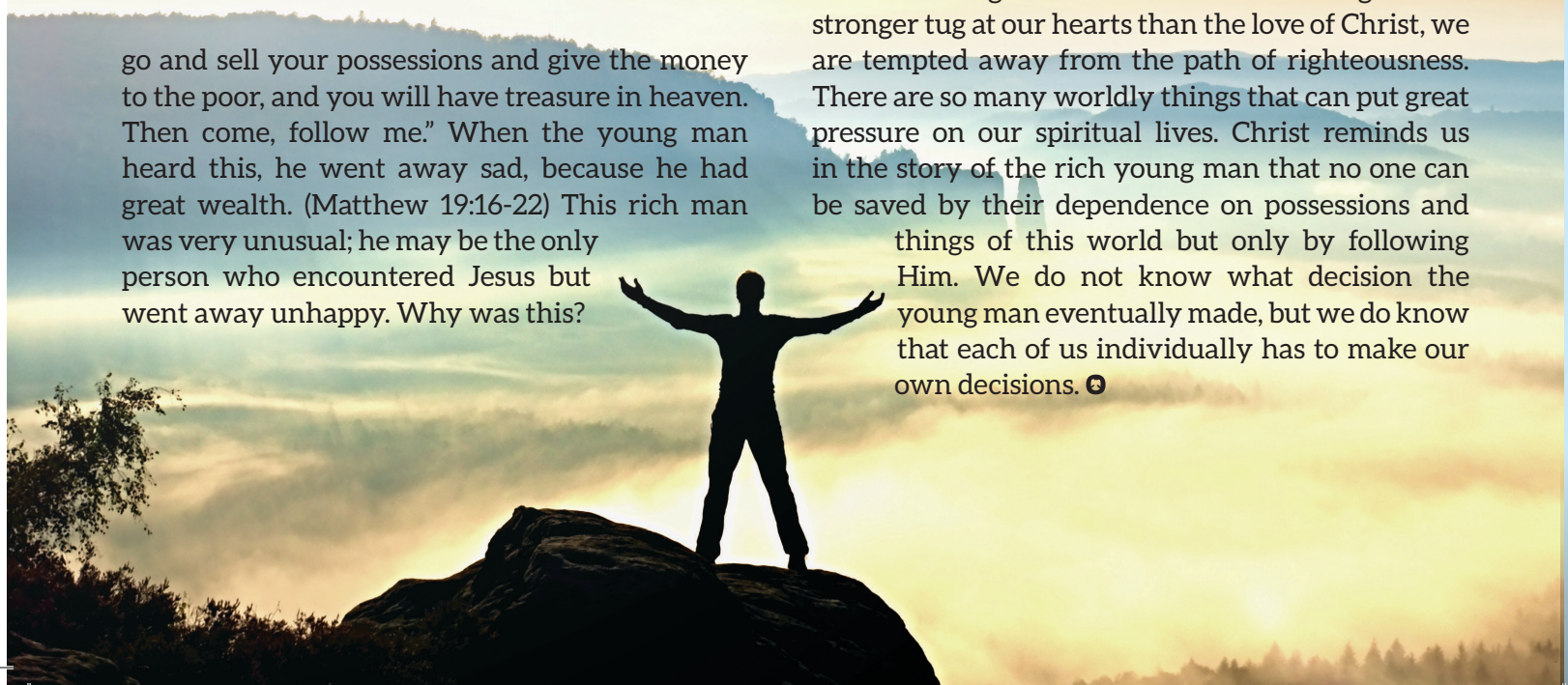
go and sell your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. (Matthew 19:16-22) This rich man was very unusual; he may be the only person who encountered Jesus but went away unhappy. Why was this?

## **IS WEALTH THE PROBLEM?**

The rich young man went to Jesus to learn from Him. Maybe he wanted confirmation that he was doing the right thing by obeying the commandments. He wasn't expecting Jesus to ask him to give up all that he possessed. There is nothing spiritually wrong with being wealthy because the Bible has many examples of godly men like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job and David who were very blessed with possessions and wealth. So what did the young man treasure that had such a hold on him as to make him willingly walk away from eternal life? His problem seemed to be in his love of money and possessions and he was not willing to give them up for Jesus. He wanted to become more holy but as James 4:4 says, "Don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." We also can have a similar problem when we cling on to something that prevents us from becoming more holy. It's worth thinking about what might be stopping us from moving on in our journey of faith. What is holding us back today? Luke 16:13 says, "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other."

## **WHAT IS STOPPING US?**

Today the things holding us back from becoming holy may be different to those in the time of Jesus. The problem for us may be in our games consoles, the latest fashions, football teams, TVs, food, drink, the latest technology or even our own achievements or the wrong friends. When something has a stronger tug at our hearts than the love of Christ, we are tempted away from the path of righteousness. There are so many worldly things that can put great pressure on our spiritual lives. Christ reminds us in the story of the rich young man that no one can be saved by their dependence on possessions and things of this world but only by following Him. We do not know what decision the young man eventually made, but we do know that each of us individually has to make our own decisions. ☺





# A VISIT BY POPE FRANCIS

**WE SHARE THE WISDOM OF POPE FRANCIS WHEN HE RECENTLY VISITED A CHILDRENS HOSPITAL.**

## SICK CHILDREN

Pope Francis has said that one of the highlights of his recent visit to Poland for World Youth Day was meeting the young patients in the Children's University Hospital in Prokocim, Krakow. When he arrived he said that he wanted to spend time with every sick child there, to stand beside their bed and embrace them. He wanted to hear each child's questions, even if for only a moment, and to be still in the face of their questions which have no easy answers. And he wanted to pray for them.

## LOVE AND CARE

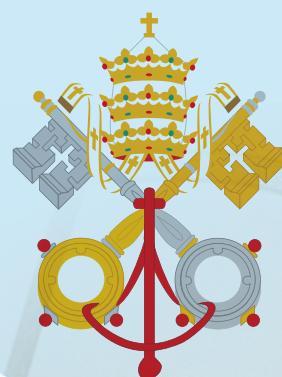
Pope Francis described how the Gospels show us Jesus seeking out those who were sick, and embracing them. Jesus always treated them in the same way that a mother would look after her sick child, and He was moved by His love and compassion for them. The Pope went on to say that he would like all Christians to love and care for the sick as Jesus did. Embracing them and sitting with them in silence and in prayer.

## HOPE

He described how our society is unfortunately tainted by a culture of waste, which is the opposite of the culture of acceptance. The victims of the culture of waste are those who are the weakest and most-frail. He said that it was beautiful to see in contrast, how in the children's hospital, the smallest and most-needy are welcomed and accepted. He saw it as a sign of love and hope that those who are the most disadvantaged were being loved and cared for.

## WORKS OF MERCY

He encouraged us all to reach out to those who are in need. Because when we serve with love and tenderness the people who need our help, it makes us all grow in humanity and holiness and opens before us the way to eternal life. Those who engage in works of mercy need not fear death. He urged all Christians to remember the call to visit the sick in this Year of Mercy. ☺





TESTIMONY

# REACH OUT YOUR HAND TO ME!

What would you do if God asked you to reach out your hand to Him? Illustrator **Simon Godsell** reflects on his life and how God has guided him on his journey of faith.

## SELF SERVING

For many years, I was very insecure, and at times crippled by anxiety. I had led myself to this place through a series of self-centred devotions, and I attempted to free myself internally by the same means. I also sought help, as many do, in empty human philosophies and esoteric therapies, but only in those that would accommodate, or even encourage, my poisonous interior life - which most of them did. Eventually, I sought comfort in heavy drinking. In

spite of this I would often find myself drawn to a quiet Church, or inspired to pause for a moment with the Bible, though I remained spiritually blind, and unwilling to turn from the path I had chosen.

## REACHING OUT

Then, after many years, God revealed to my aching heart three truths. One, that I would die a horrible death by my own hand if I wasn't willing to let Him guide me. Two, that the horrible death didn't need to



happen. And three, if I reached out my hand, it would be held, and I would live! I let go of myself... I accepted these truths... I reached out my hand...

## PREPARATION

Now when I reflect on my life two things are very clear to me; the goodness of God, and within that truth, the ways through which He prepares us at every turn, for the events that lie ahead. I understand that the meaning of everything that happens to me, is the revelation of His love for me, perfected through weakness. Yes, love Him in your weakness, because it is precisely in our human vulnerability, in our sins and failings, that we encounter the infinite mercy He wishes to pour out on us, and on others through us. Then we can hear Jesus silently whispering to our soul 'I love you!'

## TIME

This said, if we are to hear Him, we must be willing to step out of the world, to be still, to listen, and to let Him draw us deeper into the light within us. In short we have to pray! Be assured, the time you devote to quiet prayer will always draw your heart closer to the heart of your neighbour, and as such, to the Heart of God, and the realisation that we really are His beloved family.

## PAINFUL MEMORIES

A painful experience that speaks of all these realities, took place between me and my dad. I recall many years ago (during the drinking phase) thinking about my dad dying, and this thought shattered me. I remember distinctly realising, accepting and offering in my soul, my complete inability to cope with even the thought of this. I was praying with no concept that I was praying. I believe we all do that, even fervent atheists, and He listens tenderly to each one of us. When we start listening to Him, His Spirit helps us to see these moments with a new clarity, which in turn kindles our thanksgiving and praise for His ceaseless care.

## ROAD TO FREEDOM

I say this confidently and from experience, because my dad has died, and I coped... The September morning when it happened, two roads lay before

me, the same two roads we stand before whenever we're presented with life events on this scale. Down one road was terror, agony, despair and the fear of death. Down the other, confidence, joy, hope and the certainty of eternal life. I stood frozen for an instant with these two roads before me, then I felt His loving presence within me, and His gentle hand on my shoulder, 'I've prepared you for this, trust in me, do not let your heart be troubled, it's going to be ok, you know I'm with you, and you need to help your family, by letting them see my peace in you.' Again, I let go of myself; I yielded and His warmth flooded my soul. Yes, there were many tears, and great pain, though always peace and great joy.

## MY SOIL IS GRIEF

You see in the end it isn't a choice between joy and pain, they exist for now, together. It's about accepting that whatever happens has been allowed by Love for Love, and trusting that one day He will wipe away every tear. If ever you are unsure about this, simply place your heart in His Mother's heart, gazing upon her Son hanging from the Cross. Let His pierced Heart pierce yours, as it pierced hers, and let His eternal word fall on good soil. My soil is grief, and I thank God for this - it is good soil, perhaps the best. The seeds go deep, the roots are strong, and though the pruning stings a bit, the fruit lasts forever!

## PEACE AT LAST

Finally it's important that I speak of my ongoing relationship with my dad. This relationship doesn't live in old pictures or the memories I cherish in my heart, though of course they are a living connection, a blessing and a comfort I'm thankful for. It lives in the Holy Spirit; in the love between the Father and the Son; in God who is relationship, and in whom all relationships are perfected. It lives in the heart of Mary, gazing at her little Child. It lives in the homeless person, the old lady at the bus stop who just wants a chat. It lives wherever there is life, wherever there is self-giving and openness to love. When I want to see my dad, to know he's alright, I don't seek my answer in old photographs. I look at Jesus, my heart and my life, through the adoring heart of His Mother, and I know without any doubt, and beyond any human understanding, that it really is going to be ok. ☺





# THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION



**Jackson Jose continues the series on the Holy Spirit**

## BELOVED CHILDREN

From start to finish, the Holy Bible shows us the everlasting love of our Heavenly Father towards us, His children. The Jewish people had been taught that God was unapproachable and should be worshipped from afar. But Jesus revealed that God is our Father, who loves us and wants us to love Him in return. God has given us His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Adoption to help us to appreciate that we are the beloved children of God. In Romans 8:15 St Paul, speaking to the early Christians, explains that those who are led by

the Spirit of God are children of God. This is because they did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but they received a spirit of adoption, through which they can cry, "Abba, Father!" Abba was an expression of intimacy used by children toward their fathers, something like daddy or papa. This is how Jesus addressed His Heavenly Father and He invites us to do the same. He wants each of us to have an intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father just as He did.

## TRUSTING LOVE

It is the Holy Spirit that produces in us a child-like love for God our Father and allows us to trust in His tender and compassionate care for us. "Cast all your anxiety on him because He cares for you." (1Peter 5:7) It is through the Holy Spirit that we receive mercy and salvation. The Holy Spirit encourages us when we sin to repent and turn back to our loving Father like the Prodigal son. "God the Father saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of



**For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption.**

ROMANS-8-15

regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:5)

#### **ADOPTED**

The Holy Spirit is constantly at work in us, to open us up to His love, to soften our hearts and to help us to become more holy. This holiness is achieved by drawing closer to Jesus and by entering into the relationship that Jesus has with His Heavenly Father. It is the Spirit of Adoption that produces in us an affectionate longing for an intimate connection with the Father. When Jesus gave His followers the authority to address God as "Abba Father", He was giving them a share in His relationship with the Father. It is

as if Jesus Himself, through the Holy Spirit, leads us in prayer when we call out 'Abba Father.' So let us be thankful that we have the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Adoption who reveals to us that God is our Heavenly Father. ☺

*Prayer : Abba Father, fountain of all goodness, we thank You for Your unconditional love, and for the gift of your Holy Spirit to us. Holy Spirit, Spirit of Adoption, help us to know that God is our Heavenly Father and that we are His beloved children. Amen.*

## **What's On Your Mind?**

Do you have any questions, worries or concerns? We would love to be able to help you. We have started a new column "**Question Time**" to answer your personal questions. No names will be used, only the question will be printed and advice offered.

Please drop us an e-mail in confidence with your questions or issues. Remember that many of our readers will have similar issues and you could be helping them.



Please send us your questions today to [krquestiontime@gmail.com](mailto:krquestiontime@gmail.com).



# THE SILENCE OF GOD



One of the Sehion youth ministers, Sunil James explains how we can interpret the silence of God.

## A ONE SIDED CONVERSATION

Have you ever had the experience of desperately trying to pray, when you open your heart, pouring out all your questions and frustrations to the Lord but you still get no response from Him? We all have times when we ask, "Why God, why?" It's often at these times, when we most need to hear God's answer that we are left with an overwhelming feeling of complete, utter, dark silence. How





can we understand this silence? Only by looking back at history and finding the moment when the whole world stood still and became silent for a moment. From the Creation story in Genesis until the very point of Jesus' death, Sacred Scripture is action-packed, adventurous, romantic, poetic and enthralling. But for the first time in history, there was utter silence at the moment when Jesus died on the Cross.

### THE LANGUAGE OF GOD

Meister Eckhart, the 13th Century theologian, philosopher and mystic, wrote "Nothing so much resembles the language of God as does silence." He is suggesting that God speaks to us in His silence. The Bible tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8) and He loves us unconditionally (John 3:16). Eckhart is suggesting that God demonstrates His tangible love for us by expressing it in the silence of the Cross. During His ministry, whenever Jesus prayed to the Father He always got a response. We know this from John 11:41, "Father I thank you for having heard me." But when Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before His Passion, He said, "My

Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what You want." (Matthew 26:39) He also said, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done." (Matthew 26:42) It seems that at this time, His Heavenly Father didn't reply. It is perhaps due to this seeming silence that "in his anguish Jesus prayed even more earnestly, and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground." (Luke 22:44) Here we see the silence of the Father towards his beloved Son.

### JESUS IS SILENT

Later we are told that Jesus was taken before the High Priest and taking a cue from His Father in Heaven, "Jesus was silent." (Matthew 26:63) When Peter denied Jesus, He merely looked at Peter and said nothing. (Luke 22:61) When Jesus was dragged in front of Pilate, other than a few sentences He uttered, when everyone accused him, Jesus remained silent. This silence of Jesus was so unusual that the Governor himself was greatly amazed. (Matthew 27:14)

### SILENCE AT THE CROSS

When Jesus was hanging on the Cross with His mother by his side, I can imagine His Heavenly Father looking down lovingly at his Son. While the whole world seemed to mock Jesus, God remained silent. But the deepest and most tangible silence occurred when everything in the whole world just stood still as the heart of Jesus beat for the final time on the Cross. At that split second when Jesus died, complete and utter silence prevailed as God gave up His life to redeem the whole world. The most silent occasion in history came in the final expression of God's love for us. In this deep silence we find the personification of love because in this silence we find Christ Jesus.

### THE PRESENCE OF GOD

What does this mean to us now? When it appears that God is silent in answer to our prayers; the silence that God responds with is not just the absence of noise, but the same silence of love that is found on the cross. When God appears to be silent, it is the physical expression of His love for us. In silence we will encounter the tangible and constant presence of God and we can experience His love. So we should not be disappointed if God does not seem to respond to us because, when He is silent, God is responding in love, with love and through love. Silence is indeed the language that God speaks best because it conveys nothing but pure unconditional love. ☺

**"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."**

ISAIAH 53:7



# THE CINDERELLA

This is the inspiring story of St Germaine Cousin who endured daily humiliation at the hands of her step mother but never retaliated or stopped loving her



## CHILDHOOD

Germaine Cousin was born in Pibrac, France in 1579. She was a frail and sickly child and her right arm was deformed and slightly paralysed. At a young age her mother died and her father remarried. Her step mother neglected Germaine and treated her cruelly. When Germaine contracted scrofula, a kind of tuberculosis that caused her neck glands to swell up and produced open sores on her body she was banished from the family home to sleep with the animals in case she passed on the disease to the rest of the family. With little food to eat and no friends Germaine endured her suffering silently. She was forced to sleep in the barn during freezing winter nights where she huddled together with the sheep for warmth but she never complained. The family decided that she wasn't worth educating and so she was given the job of looking after the family sheep and she was often so hungry that she ate what the dogs and the pigs left behind.

## A FRIEND IN GOD

Instead of feeling lonely and sad, Germaine found a friend in God. The only education she received was from the sermons at Mass and from the Catechism classes at church but she found great consolation in her strong faith. When she started attending daily Mass she would leave her sheep in God's care entrusting that He would keep them safe. The villagers were amazed that none of her flock ever wandered away or were attacked by wolves while she was gone. God's protection never failed her.



# SAINT

## LOVING

When Germaine was given food, she would share it with the beggars. Her simple prayer to the Lord was, "Dear God please don't let me be too hungry or too thirsty and help me to please my mother and please you God." One cold winter day, the villagers saw her stepmother chasing Germaine down the street screaming at her and accusing her of stealing a loaf of bread and hiding it in her apron. After threatening to hit the girl if she didn't show her what she was hiding, Germaine opened her apron and out tumbled some beautiful sweet smelling flowers that were only found in summer. She then handed a flower to her mother and said, "Please accept this flower, Mother. God sends it to you as a sign of his forgiveness."

## DEATH AND BURIAL

One day at the age of 22, her father found her dead on her bed of straw in the barn, her Rosary entwined in her fingers and her face shining like an angel. As was the custom at the time, Germaine's body was buried in an unmarked grave under the flagstone floor of the local church. Forty one years later, one of Germaine's relatives died and they began preparing to bury them in the same grave. When they lifted the flagstones, they discovered the perfectly preserved body of a beautiful young woman in the grave. With a deformed arm and scars from scrofula clearly visible, the body was easily identified as that of Germaine Cousin.

## DEVOTION

Local devotion grew and many miracles were attributed to Germaine's intercession. But even after her death things did not go smoothly for Germaine. The leaders of the French Revolution regarded the local devotion as 'superstition' and this infuriated them. So they sent men to Pibrac to try to destroy Germaine's body. It is said that they threw it in a pit and covered it with quicklime, a caustic substance that would destroy any flesh that was left on the bones. But after the revolution her body was dug up once more, and found to be as beautiful and preserved as ever. Despite numerous miracles occurring through her intercession, it was not until 266 years after her death that Germaine was declared a Saint by Pope Pius IX in June 1867. Her feast day is on 15th June. ☪

## Prayer:

Saint Germaine, look down from Heaven and intercede for children who suffer cruelty and abuse. Please pray for young people affected by family breakdowns. Protect those children who have been abandoned and live on the streets. Saint Germaine, you who suffered neglect and abuse so patiently, pray for us.



*"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths" Isaiah 2:3*

# HOLY FIRE

(Abhishekagni)

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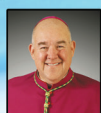
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