

# KINGDOM REVELATOR

|||| CATHOLIC PUBLICATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ■ ISSUE 63

**CELEBRATING  
PENTECOST EVERYDAY**

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**NEVER GIVE UP!**

**A REALITY CHECK**

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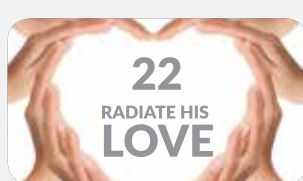
**RADIATE HIS LOVE**





Mother Mary,  
Pray for our Readers

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# HOW CAN A PERSON TELL WHETHER HIS ACTION IS GOOD OR BAD?



**291: A person is capable of distinguishing good actions from bad ones because he possesses reason and a conscience, which enable him to make clear judgments. [1749-1754, 1757-1758]**

The following guidelines make it easier to distinguish good actions from bad ones:

- (1) What I do must be good; a good intention alone is not enough. Bank robbery is always bad, even if I commit that crime with the good intention of giving the money to poor people.
- (2) Even when what I do is truly good, if I perform the good action with a bad intention, it makes the whole action bad. If I walk an elderly woman home and help her around the house, that is good. But if I do it while planning a later break-in, that makes the whole action something bad.
- (3) The circumstances in which someone acts can diminish his responsibility, but they cannot change at all the good or bad character of an action. Hitting one's mother is always bad, even if the mother has previously shown little love to the child. CCC 295-297

In the Christian tradition, "conscience", "conscientia", means "with knowledge": that is, [we] ourselves, our being is open and can listen to the voice of being itself, the voice of God. "In the depths of our being, not only can we listen to the needs of the moment, to material needs, but we can also hear the voice of the Creator Himself and thus discern what is good and what is bad." Pope Benedict XVI, July 24, 2007

His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths. Second Vatican Council, GS

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## Editorial

When the disciples asked the Lord to teach them to pray, He did not simply give an abstract definition of prayer or teach them an effective technique for praying in order to obtain something. Instead, Jesus shared with them His own experience of prayer, putting them directly in contact with the Father, thus arousing in them a longing for a personal relationship with Him. Pope Francis said recently, when talking about prayer, that the Gospel encourages everyone to firmly uphold the example of Mary, the faithful handmaid of the Lord, and to experience the joy that is born of having met Jesus Christ.

The letter of St Paul to the Colossians tells us that we are made through Him and for Him. Irrespective of how we treat God in our lives, He continues to love us. Based on this fact, we invite our readers in this issue to have a daily experience of Pentecost, to grow in humility and never give up in the face of disappointment but to keep calm and carry on.

Today more and more people are unaware of God's mercy and love. Ignorance of God prompts us to set our own agenda, voice our own opinions and live a self-centred life. But Jesus prefers love in action. Hence let's strive for goodness in our day to day life and then perhaps godliness will follow.



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# CELEBRATE PENTECOST EVERY



Jose Kuriakose, from Birmingham UK, elaborates why we shouldn't be a seasonal Christian.

The feast of Pentecost is one of the most important feasts of the liturgical year. Very often its while celebrating this feast that for many the divine fire is rekindled and their spiritual lives are refreshed. Indeed many experience baptism in the Spirit

and become a new creation in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

However, for many of them, sadly it is just a superficial season, a kind of seasonal event with empty routine practices. Knowingly or unknowingly they become a 'seasonal Christian', just partaking in religious customs, and that is a real danger.

So, let's reflect; how is your spiritual life after Pentecost? Are you able to find that fire burning inside your heart?

Romans 8 is a beautiful chapter

# TING COST DAY

which highlights all the beauty of a Spirit-filled life. Let's reflect upon five important points from Romans 8, which will help us live Pentecost everyday, and make it a transforming experience.

**1. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)**

Declare your freedom in Christ Jesus. You are unique and have been purchased by the blood of the lamb, which enables you to be saved. Sin and death

have no dominion over your life. Say every morning, 'I belong to Christ, I belong to heaven, I do not have any condemnation, and I walk in freedom and joy.' This true freedom enables you to take up the Christian responsibilities and to lead an authentic Christian life.

**2. If you live according to flesh, you will die: but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (Romans 8:13)**

Never forget the ongoing battle of flesh Vs Spirit. There is a constant fight against the world, flesh and Satan. In any sports different sort of preparation, concentration, dedication, commitment and discipline are needed to get a medal. How much more is needed to attain the eternal crown?

**3. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18)**

Let us always remind ourselves that the Christian life is not magic. There are ups and downs, disappointments and failures, all of which are a part of life. At home, school, college, work places, we may come across many trials and sufferings. The path embraced by Jesus' chosen saints, we too must follow. Remember that every Good Friday is followed by an Easter Sunday.

**4. The Spirit helps us in our weakness. (Romans 8:26)**

Accept and acknowledge that you are weak. Weak in every area. One may be weak in prayer; one may be weak in Sacramental life, or maybe too much into social media, peer pressure, temptations, party, drinks, films and games. However, in every weakest link,

## “ How is your spiritual life after Pentecost? ”

the Holy Spirit can do amazing things. You will be able to remove every fear and failure in the name of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Remember, "His grace is sufficient for you." (2Corinthians 12:9)

**5. In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:37)**

Indeed who will separate us from the love of God? Your God, redeemer and creator is always with you. His unconditional love is always available. The Holy Spirit can fill every emptiness in your heart by pouring in God's love. You will be satisfied in Him alone.

Yes, dear friends, you are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and you have the power of resurrection within you (Romans 8:11). You can have Pentecost everyday in your life. Apply these keys and unlock every barrier.

**Prayer**

*My dear Holy Spirit, help me to love Jesus so that I may proclaim; "for I am convinced that neither death, nor life, no angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8: 38-39)*





# MINISTRY TODAY



Msgr. Sean Healy from Northampton, UK, calls for a deeper understanding of ministry and its role, both in the Church and beyond.

**H**ave you ever had one of those moments which for some strange reason remains etched on your memory? Thirty years ago, I was asked to give a talk to the parish group of the Union of Catholic Mothers. I can't really remember why I was asked to speak or what my topic was but I do remember (and this is the memory etched on my brain) that I said in years to come the fundamental pairing in the church would no longer be clergy and laity but ministries or service and community. For centuries we have always worked with that fundamental pairing of clergy and laity as being the bedrock of Catholic life, but things were changing and new ways of understanding the life and mission of the Church were emerging. Coming to a deeper understanding of ministry and its role both in the Church and beyond was shaping

something new.

I don't know what impact my talk had on those worthy ladies of the St Joseph's UCM group but today that fundamental pairing came back into my mind.

In fact, I was able to track down the article that the idea came from – I have to admit and I hope I did to my original audience – that it wasn't an original idea!

The article was written by an American Jesuit and was called a Theology of Ministry (1) and in it he contends that the theology of ministry is fundamentally a theology of grace. The kingdom of God is the source, the goal of ministry. The presence of God in our complex world enables ministry, gives ministry its life and freedom. Ministry is a grace and gift of God's Spirit to the Church: it is inward in that it

enliven our communities of faith but also outward because we are called to share the Good News! So this new dynamic is renewing and refreshing the mission of the Church. The author does attempt to list the possibilities of ministry, but the list can never be complete because each of us will respond through the charism of our baptismal calling and each response will be unique. Some will respond through the ordained ministry – deacon, priest, bishop – others may be married but the list of ministries could include ministries to marriage, social justice, spiritual guidance, the sick, marginal and alienated Catholics, an expansion of the broad ministries of healing and teaching. Writing in 1985 the author says, ‘neither decline nor shrinkage but an extraordinary explosion of ministry typifies the time in which we live.’ Hope filled words which we need to hear over and over again.

Like most priests of my generation, I suppose that is what I have been trying to do over the last thirty odd years of my ministry, to fan into a flame or blow on the embers of that baptismal calling so as to help the faithful understand the charism given to them through baptism and confirmation so that they can truly play their part in building the community of the Church and witness to Christ in the world. Down through the years there have been some powerful advocates of the same thinking. In *Christifidelis Laici* (1988) – Pope St John Paul II’s post synodal document – the Pope states that lay people must make their daily conduct a shining and convincing testimony to the Gospel. Our

own Bishops in ‘The sign we give’ (1995) speak convincingly about collaborative ministry and they describe particular ways of working and patterns of ministry which bring together lay people, religious, bishops and priests.

In recent years, this whole process has been enlivened through the ministry of Pope Francis as he challenges us to be missionary disciples and to live and share our faith knowing that we are called

**Ministry is a grace and gift of God’s Spirit to the Church: it is inward in that it enliven our communities of faith but also outward because we are called to share the Good News!**

and gifted. Some commentators (2) say that this thrust of his pontificate comes from his direct experience of being a priest and bishop in Buenos Aires. The Jesuit College where he was rector was slowly surrounded by new suburbs of the city into which flowed thousands of people from different parts of the country looking for work and a better life. Fr Bergoglio sent out his students to these people: they visited, listened, prayed with those who would welcome them into their homes. When they returned to the college they shared their memories and experiences: the people they visited were ‘the poorest of the poor’; the Church was not very important to them, but they did

not feel abandoned by God. As one of the students reflected: in going out as missionaries they had been missioned to. The process is summed up in a beautiful phrase used by Cardinal Bergoglio when he said ‘God is present in, encourages, and is an active protagonist in the life of his people’. No wonder the Pope has coined those challenging phrases of taking on the smell of the sheep (a challenge not just for pastors but for every disciple) and describing the Church as a ‘field hospital after battle’. In *Evangelii Gaudium* he says ‘An evangelising community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others’ (#24).

As we have already seen such changes to our understanding of ministry and mission will not happen immediately – there is still a distance to travel. But part of the purpose of the renewal movement in the Church today is to move things further along, to enthuse every person to use their gifts and talents to continue the work of the Church and indeed to move beyond it. We need new forms of ministry which reflect collaborative working and new ways in which we can fan the flames so that all are encouraged to play their part. Let’s hope that we will not have to wait another thirty years before a pleasant memory bears fruit.

(1) *The article is ‘A Theology of Ministry’ – John A. Coleman SJ, The Way, Vol 25, no 1, January 1985*

(2) Cf. ‘To Discern and Reform’ – Austen Ivereigh, *The Way, Vol 57, no 4, October 2018.*



# A REALITY CHECK



Brijil Maria Joseph, a fourth-year Medical student from Bristol, UK, wonders if readers can take up a real challenge to discover real happiness.

**A** world without family, friends or your phone! Is it possible? Can people even survive in such situations today? Well, it's possible and even enjoyable.

I had the privilege of staying with the Abhishekagni Sisters of Jesus and Mary (ASJM) at their monastery on Hermon Mount in Attappadi, Kerala, India. I

**“No YouTube, WhatsApp or Instagram. How was I to survive?”**

thought I would never be able to survive there but now I realise how much I long to go back.

I was able to grow closer to Christ and experience true happiness and real friendship. It was there that I learnt that Jesus is all we will ever need.

Before my visit, I honestly thought that I was close to Jesus. I knew that Jesus has to be first in my life. I went to church quite often, attended retreats and liked going for adoration. A little bit more than the average catholic!

But boy, I was in for a surprise when I got there!

At the monastery, I decided to hand my phone in. To be honest this was initially really hard, my phone was like my baby. I never knew how much I'd miss it once I had relinquished it. Initially, I struggled. There was no way to contact friends, keep up with the latest news, no YouTube, WhatsApp or Instagram. How was I to survive? The truth is, I survived! I really enjoyed the freedom I had without having my phone in my pocket. Without my phone, I was able to actually love Jesus, to make Him my first priority every day, from the moment I opened my eyes in the morning. Quite a radical change for someone who checked her phone first thing in the morning and constantly throughout the day!

During those two weeks, when things were good, hard, confusing or even exciting; I'd run first to Jesus to tell Him, rather than running to tell others. This brought me a lot of relief because no one really understands us the way Jesus does. Here I realised the truth of the scripture verse – 'See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands, your walls are continually before me' (Isaiah 49:16). I understood how much the Lord loves me and wants to be with me regardless of who I am; regardless of what state, shape or form I may be in. He is a God after my heart.

Even when I didn't have the things that previously made me happy, it didn't bother me. I realised that happiness does not depend on what I have, the number of friends I have or what my family is like. I learnt that true happiness can only be found in Jesus. As St Augustine says: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."



# LAST WILL OF JESUS CHRIST



*Many people make their Will, which means they specify what should be done with their possessions, property and wealth after their death. They also specify who their executor should be. Sales Sebastian, from Salford, UK, ponders over what would be the 'Will of Christ'.*

## LOVE GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

Jesus wants His disciples to be known as His own through the love they show one another (John 13:35). The love Jesus talks about is "agape" love, as described in 1 Corinthians 13, not the desire of the flesh. Jesus went into more detail about this sublime love in John 15:13.

## DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME

On the evening prior to His death, Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist and the Priesthood (Luke 22:19). The Old Testament tells us that according to God's command, only members of the priestly tribe (Levites) and their family were allowed to eat from the sacrifices. Hence, those wishing to partake of His Body and Blood need to belong to the royal priesthood through the sacrament of Baptism.

## PERMANENT HELPER

Jesus promised a permanent helper to be with us (John 14:16). The Holy Spirit comes from the Father and the Son. When we receive the Holy Spirit within us, we are participating with our Father in Heaven in doing His Will.

## HIS MOTHER

In the last moments of life, right before His death on the cross, Jesus gave His mother, Mary, to us (John 19:26). As disciples of Christ, we must all receive our Heavenly Mother as our mother too.

## EVANGELIZE

Just before His Passion and death, Jesus commanded us to preach the Gospel, heal the sick and cast out the demons, and since we received without payment, so we have to give without payment (Matthew 10:8).

## THE AUTHORITY

Jesus gave His disciples the authority to forgive sins and sent them out to preach the Gospel, just as He had been sent by His Father (John 20:19-23).

## EXECUTOR - HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the Executor of the Will of the Father and the Son. Only the One who originates from them can do this. The Holy Spirit inspires us and teaches us the Divine Will. Let us listen to Him. We are thankful that we have a Father in Heaven who gave His only begotten Son to us so that none should perish. Jesus included all of us in His Will and invites us to participate in it through Holy Mass, Holy Confession, Holy Rosary and Evangelization.





Toji Leon, from Melbourne, Australia, writes about the exemplary faith of our Lady.

# The Heroic Faith of Mary

Mary's faith in God is exemplary. After Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word," the angel departed from her (Luke 1:38). As a young girl she was unaware of the challenges that lurked ahead of her. Even though she faced a lot of difficult situations just because of this 'yes', the angel never came back to her again. But she never lacked faith in the great promise and willingly became a part of the story of salvation. She faced it all with steadfast faith in God, and this faith strengthened her.

## The Expectation

The angel described Jesus with these words, "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:32-33). It was a great promise; Mary would probably have thought that her son would become a king like King David. As she was well versed with the Scriptures, she knew Jesus was the promised Messiah and He would save His people. Although she, like all the others, was

waiting eagerly for the Messiah, she would not have known what was lying ahead for her and the Messiah. But in her great faith she said yes to the will of God.

## The Reality

Mary's life had changed. From a quiet and protected life, she embarked on a challenging journey. Instead of the "throne of David", her son received a crown of thorns! Instead of "reigning over the house of Jacob forever", her son died on a cross! Seven sharp swords of sorrow pierced her heart. How contrasting it was with the words of the angel! Yet, Mary would face it all with strong faith in the Lord. As Elizabeth said, "Mary believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord" (Luke 1:45), even though she

didn't understand how it was to be fulfilled.

Msgr. Romano Guardini, the famous theologian, wrote, "Literally, every step the Lord took towards fulfilment of His godly destiny Mary followed—in bare faith. Comprehension came only with Pentecost. Then she understood all that she had so long reverently stored in her heart. It is this heroic faith which places her irrevocably at Christ's side in the work of redemption, not the miracles of Marianic legend."

## Learn From Mary

Mother Mary is a role model. Even during the time of her greatest sufferings, she believed in the Lord. Like the needle of a compass that always points to the North, her mind always pointed to God. In faith, she "treasured all these things in her heart" (Luke 2:51). She often prayed with the disciples (Acts 1:14); she imparted the light of her faith to the world.

**The more we  
renounce ourselves,  
the more we walk  
by the Spirit.**  
(CCC 736)



St Jerome compares the faith of Abraham and Mary and comments on their complete obedience to whatever was asked of them by God. Some sort of sacrifice is needed for complete obedience, and Mary was ready to make that sacrifice. Because Mary had a deep relationship with God, she never doubted in the fulfillment of the promise made to her. CCC 736, teaches that the more we renounce ourselves, the more we walk by the Spirit, and that was exactly what Mary did. So, let's make Mary our role model and say yes to the will of God, so that we too can bear much fruit in our lives today.

As Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "May the Virgin Mary, who was not afraid to answer "yes" to the Word of the Lord and, after conceiving in her womb, set out full of joy and hope, always be your model and your guide. Learn from the Mother of the Lord and our Mother to be humble and at the same time courageous, simple and prudent; meek and strong, not with the strength of the world but with the strength of the truth."



## PLACES FROM THE BIBLE

### SODOM AND GOMORRAH

By Stacey Illickal, from Florida, USA.



**T**he cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are mentioned together in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. These cities were "cities of the plain", areas that were well-watered and green. They were located near the Jordan river in the land of Canaan.

Sodom and Gomorrah are mentioned in Genesis 18:20, where God revealed to Abraham that Sodom and Gomorrah were to be destroyed for their grave sins. Abraham pleaded for the lives of any righteous people living there, especially the lives of his nephew, Lot, and his family. After Lot and his family left the city with the stern instructions not to turn and look back, God poured down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah, and destroyed everything living in those

cities. In Genesis 19:26, we read that when Lot's wife looked back, she was turned to a pillar of salt. In Ezekiel 16:48–50, God compares Jerusalem to Sodom, saying, "Your sister Sodom and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done. This was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty, and did abominable things before me; therefore, I removed them when I saw it."

The location of the biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, which were burned down, is supposed to be near the Dead Sea in Israel. The ashen remains of what seems to be once big and prosperous cities, can be found in the areas around the Dead Sea.





# KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON



Nimmy Elizabeth Biju, from Worcester, UK, encourages the reader why one should never lose hope but keep on trying.

Some years ago, a priest said to me, “Nimmy, do you know that Jesus wants you to be a saint?” I recall laughing at his words and responding, “Are you joking? I could never be one!” Now I realise it’s true. I am called to be a saint; not just me, but you too. Yes, that’s right! When we think of saints, we think of them as people who are above our reach. We forget that they became saints not because they never sinned or messed up, but because they persisted in loving God and strived to be holy till the very end. St Josemaria Escravia said, “To begin is for everyone, to persevere is for saints.”



## ***You Can And You Will***

"I can't." "What is the point?"  
"I'd never be able to make it."

These are the thoughts that run through my head many times. To top that, there may be some people in our lives adding fuel to the fire by speaking negatively to us and about us. But today I want to tell you that you can, and you will, if you keep calm and carry on.


Perseverance! That's what we're talking about. More than anything, let us persevere in our relationship with Christ and our struggle to attain holiness. When we do, "God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

There have been moments where I have been tricked into thinking that maybe Jesus is tired of forgiving me, that I shouldn't pray because I am not worthy enough, that I shouldn't try anymore because I would never achieve sainthood. These are all big lies uttered by the evil one. Don't be fooled by them. In her diary, St Faustina writes of a conversation between Jesus and a soul 'striving for perfection'. The soul complains to Jesus that despite all the resolutions that she makes, at the end of the day, she seems to fail each one. Our loving Jesus assures the soul that He sees all her efforts and is pleased by them. He says, "You are dealing with the God of mercy. Remember I did not allot only a certain number of pardons" (1488, Divine Mercy in My Soul). Don't be tired or lose hope but keep trying. One thing I am sure of is that God is infinitely loving, receiving

and forgiving; forever ready to embrace us in whatever state we are in.

## ***Forget What Lies Behind***

I knew a girl who was struggling with her past and couldn't move on or come to terms with it. She couldn't accept Christ's forgiveness because she couldn't forgive herself. Even St Paul went through this! But in Philippians 3:13 he says, "But one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead." He says he strains forward because he understands that forgetting the past is not an easy task, but one should look forward with faith to what lies ahead.



**You are  
dealing with  
the God of  
mercy.**

As a young person, I know that it is so easy to be disheartened and to look down on oneself, but whatever obstacle comes our way, let us not be discouraged. I remember one day the Wi-Fi at home stopped working. My brothers and I tried all kinds of things to make it work but in the end, we just had to get a new router. How much I persisted in trying to get the Wi-Fi up and

running! I thought to myself, am I persisting like this in my journey to sanctity? St Paul says in Hebrews 12:1, "...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." While racing, if the runner falls, does he not get up and try to keep going for the finishing line? Does an infant give up because he falls while taking his first step? So, whatever happens, never give up; keep pushing yourself and keep trying.

St Paul in Philippians 3:14 says, "I press on toward the goal for the prize." He doesn't say just walk on but presses on because he is aware of the reality that it is hard. However, it is totally worth it, because at the end of it all, we have the opportunity of attaining Heaven and being bestowed with the crown of life. What a joy it would be to hear the voice of our Father in Heaven saying, "Well done, welcome to eternal life with everlasting joy."

## ***Try Again***

I want to encourage you to never lose hope or give into negative thoughts. Remember that "God is faithful, and he will never let you be tested beyond your strength." (1 Corinthians 10:12). You will be able to overcome everything with the grace of God. There may be times where you just want to give up your journey of faith, but I pray that the love of Christ urges you on (2 Corinthians 5:14). No one becomes holy within a day, it takes time, it takes practice. Chase holiness; if you fall, it's okay! Just get up and try again. Keep making resolutions, keep running, keep fighting but never give up.



# CROSS WORD

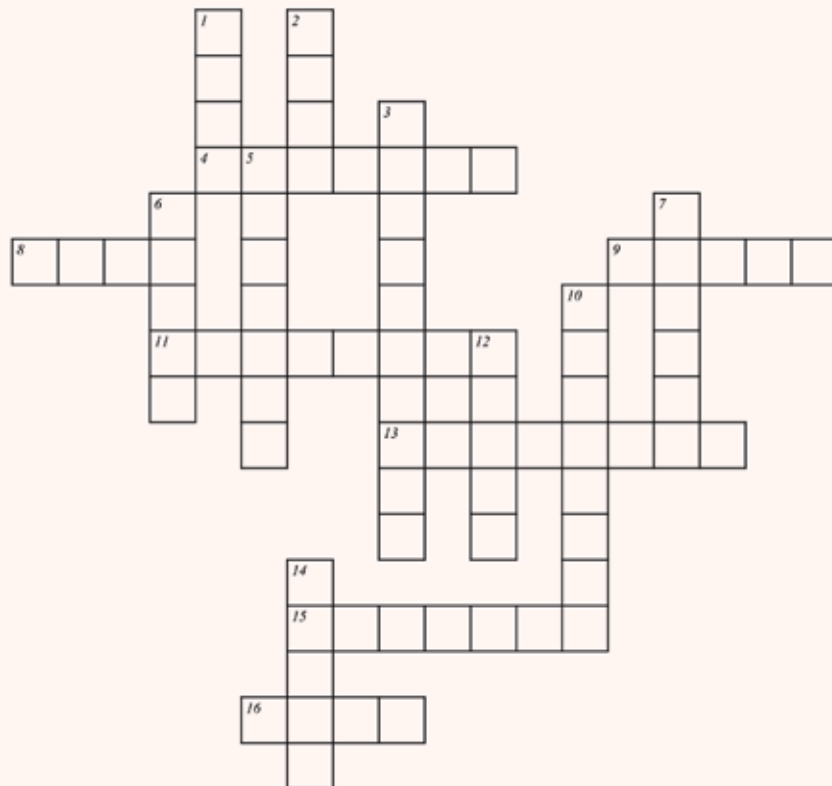
By Anu Bibin

KINGDOM

## REVELATOR

### Across

4. First Christian Martyr.
8. Where did the Angel ask St Philip to go after preaching in Samaria?
9. After resurrection how many days did Jesus appear to His disciples?
11. The young man who fell from the three-storey building while listening to the preaching of St Peter.
13. The beggar whom Peter healed at the Beautiful Gate suffered from \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The man who died after lying to the Holy Spirit.
16. Father of Saul.



### Down

1. What did people of Lystra call Barnabas?
2. Author of the Acts of the Apostles.
3. To whom is the Acts of Apostles addressed to?
5. The woman whom St Peter raised from the dead in Joppa.
6. John Baptized with \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The Greek translation of the name Tabitha.
10. The first missionary companion of Paul.
12. Forename of Peter.
14. Son of Jesse.

# NEVER GIVE UP!



**Geenu Kunnengode, from USA, encourages the reader to get up after every fall trusting in God's mercy.**

**N**ow here I was, sitting in my car at around 1:30 in the afternoon, completely lost. I had made a detour to avoid traffic, thinking I would reach my destination faster. Instead, I had made a wrong turn, and I was furious! My internet was not working, which meant that I had no "Waze" or Google Maps to help me out. I had already broken the resolution I had made earlier that day by going crazy during an unforeseen event! I could feel my heart racing, head pounding, ready to give in to another yelling episode! Then I saw the Bible resting on the passenger seat. As I opened it, my eyes fell on the caption, "Jesus praying for His disciples" (Gospel of John, Chapter 17). I felt calm; knowing that Jesus is not mad at my

failings. Rather, I was assured that He is praying for me. I found refuge in His words, "Let not your hearts be troubled, you trust in me and also in my Father" (John 14:1).

Jesus knows that we are always surrounded by temptations. It may be our addictions, bad habits, excessive use of social media, electronics, cursing or disobedience. We may have tried several times to get rid of these bad habits, but we keep falling pathetically back into its clutches. St Paul says in Romans 7:19, "For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do - this I keep on doing."

## ***Do Not Stay Fallen***

So, what should we do? Should we give up? No, never! We may keep falling, but we must not stay fallen. Look up and gaze at the face

of our loving Father, who is always there with outstretched arms to pick us up, clean us and put us back on our feet. Over the course of our lives, through His mercy and unconditional love, we will be set free.

Fr Donald Calloway's conversion story is quite remarkable and relevant in this context. As a teenager, he abused drugs, was a frequent runaway, jailed, and was even thrown out of a foreign country. In the eyes of the world, he was a total failure! But when God's mercy engulfed him, the result was unbelievable. God helped him to evolve from a juvenile hoodlum into a holy priest, now preaching the Good News to millions of people around the world!

Let us not give up on striving to rid ourselves of the shackles of bad habits. Instead, trust in God and keep on trying! For the Bible says, "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

**When God's mercy engulfed him, the result was unbelievable.**



# MEET THE PROPHET **HOSEA** THE PROPHET CALLING FOR FAITHFULNESS TO GOD

By Munnu Fennil, UK



## WHO WAS HOSEA?

Hosea is one of the 12 minor prophets in the Bible. The name Hosea means "salvation." His book contains 14 chapters and consisting of three main themes; chapters 1-3 speak about his broken marriage with his wife Gomer; chapters 4-13 deal with prophecies of doom, and the final chapter gives a promise of restoration. Hosea and Amos prophesied the fall of Israel but underneath the message of destruction was a promise of restoration. Both prophets were active during the eighth century B.C.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

Hosea enters the scene when Israel is enjoying an abundance of wealth under the rule of King Jeroboam II. Although prosperous, the kingdom was decaying morally. All sorts of social injustice, sexual sins, idolatry and political murders were prevalent in the society at that time. Instead of trusting in God, the leaders of the nation relied on strategic connections and political alliances with other powerful nations for their stability. It was as though God was not needed any more; He became just one of many other gods they worshiped.

During that time, God raised up Hosea to call His people back to Him. God did this by asking Hosea to marry an adulterous woman called Gomer. Despite her adulterous ways, Hosea kept on loving her and wanting her back as his wife. Hosea's broken marriage symbolised the broken relationship between God and His people. Hosea concluded his prophetic mission on a positive note, by exhorting the Israelites to seek forgiveness and to return to their compassionate Lord. According to historians, Hosea prophesied for around 40 years from 755 B.C to 712 B.C.

## GOD'S MESSAGE THROUGH HOSEA

The core message God wants to give through Hosea is about His persistent love. Just as Hosea loves and waits for his wife, despite of her unfaithfulness, God loves and longs for His estranged people to return to Him. When we put anything above the Lord in our lives, it hurts Him like unfaithfulness hurts the victim of an adulterous marriage. God's love is personal and unconditional. Hosea chapter 10 is a call to seek God. The cycle of repentance, redemption, and restoration is evident in Hosea's prophecy. We see that though God says He will bring judgment on sin, He will always bring His people back to Himself. Hosea's message illustrates that no one is beyond the offer of forgiveness.

## HOW IS HOSEA'S LIFE RELEVANT IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY?

God equipped Hosea with sufficient grace to deal with a difficult situation in his life. The shame and embarrassment in his life did not make him rebel against God. Instead, he chose to walk with God. The eventual reconciliation of Hosea and Gomer is treated as a hopeful metaphor for the eventual reconciliation between God and His people today. In the book of Hosea, we also learn that salvation is found in turning to the Lord and away from our sin. We are not to trust in governments, rely on our own strength and wealth or fall victim to idol worship, rather we are to trust in the Lord alone.

## CROSS WORD ANSWERS

**Across :** 4. Stephen 8. Gaza 9. Forty 11. Eutychus 13. Lameness 15. Ananias 16. Kish  
**Down :** 1. Zeus 2. Luke 3. Theophilus 5. Tabitha 6. Water 7. Dorcas 10. Barnabas  
12. Simon 14. David

# The Silence of the Lamb



Abraham George, from Birmingham, discusses the importance of being humble and how we can find God who reveals Himself to the humble who seek Him.

## Attracted by God the Father

Humility is an exalted state of mind; a grace and a gift from God. It gives all the divine characteristics to a person who wants to become a disciple of Jesus. Following Jesus is not an easy job. Not everyone can follow Jesus as they wish, which Jesus Himself makes clear in John 6:44. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day." He ascertains this again in John 6:56, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him," and again in John 6:58, "This is the bread that came down from heaven, such as your ancestors ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever." When many of the disciples heard this, they started deserting Jesus. They said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" (John 6:60). With their worldly belief and logic, they couldn't understand what Jesus meant about His Body and Blood. In other words, their faith was neither deep enough

**"The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love."**

Pope Francis

to follow Jesus nor were they attracted by God the Father.

Aware that His disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." (John 6:65)

## Humility Reveals the Mystery of God

The first step to understand God and follow Jesus is to become humble. A humble person is always silent, patient and passionately listens to others, never talking about himself or herself pridefully. Even their silence has meaning, like the silence of the Lamb who was executed on mount Calvary. Jesus was so humble that even when His body was being torn apart, He prayed in deep pain for those who ruthlessly taunted and tortured Him to death. A humble man always thanks God for the wonderful blessings and puts God ahead of everything they say or do.

## Our Role

We live in a highly competitive world where people compete for everything. In this aggressive world, it may seem that humility has no place or nothing to offer. In reality, it has much more to offer to an individual. The fruits of humility include joy, happiness, hope, peace and gentleness. As we are not competing but giving away what we have, there is no place for rivalry, grudges, selfishness and enemies. We conquer the world in silence and in love. This is also a wonderful way to praise the Almighty God.

The book of Sirach says: The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself, so you will find favour in the sight of God. So, let us contribute a little bit to this world and make it a better place to live by becoming humbler. <<<<



# ORA ET LABORA




Rosemary Joy, from Birmingham, UK, reflects on what happens when we hand over our life to Jesus.

I have often heard the phrase, “Give your life to Jesus”. What does it mean to give my life to Jesus? What do I have to give up if I do this? To surrender our life to Christ means to accept Him as our personal Lord and saviour. “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9). Every moment of our life should be lived in union with Him who gave His life for us. This may seem impossible to achieve and you may think, “I can’t be praying every moment, I have to study, I have so many other responsibilities, so how can I be with Jesus all the time?”

## ***A Life With Jesus***

To live with Jesus means to invite Him to be with us in every part of our life. St Benedict said, “Ora et labora”, which means “Pray and work.” It’s not possible for us to be praying vocally all the time, but we can turn even the most ordinary every day actions into a prayer.



St Theresa of Lisieux said, “To pick up a pin for love can convert a soul.” Wow! This young saint teaches us that even the most monotonous chore can have great power if we turn it into a prayer by doing that chore out of love for Jesus. For example, when we’re washing the dishes, we can pray, “Jesus, I offer up every plate I wash for one sinner to be cleansed of sin.” This must have been what St Paul was talking about when he told us, “Pray without ceasing.” (1Thessalonians 5:17)

### ***What’s Holding You Back?***

Many of us like to be the king or queen of our own world, being the one who decides what should and shouldn’t happen in our lives. To hand over the control of our life from our hands to Jesus may seem a bit difficult, but we need to realise that Jesus knows and wants what’s best for us. He says in John 10:10, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” Yes, Jesus truly wants us to be happy! If we truly believe this, then the fear that’s holding us back from giving our life to Him will dissipate in the love of His Heart. “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears


has not reached perfection in love.” (John 4:18)

When we are convinced that Jesus loves us, we will be more confident in giving over the steering wheel of our life to Him. Jesus will take us to places that we could never have dreamed of for ourselves. He will put dreams in our hearts that we could never have imagined. To live with Christ means to live a life of excitement, mystery and joy! Of course, pain and suffering are bound to come, but even in the midst of storms, our hearts can rest in His grace, as the Psalmist says, “From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I” (Psalm 61:2). Jesus is the rock upon which our feet can find firm ground.

### ***The Call To Be A Saint***

St Josemaria Escriva, called “the saint of ordinary life”, taught that we can be saints in our everyday lives, whether we’re single, married, or leading a religious life. God meets us in the ordinary moments of our life, right where we are. In the Bible, we see that Jesus encountered His disciples for the first time during their normal everyday life: Simon and Andrew were casting a net into the sea, James and John were in their boat mending their nets, and Matthew was sitting at the tax booth. “Do not be afraid to be saints of the new millennium!” (St John Paul II)

St Josemaria Escriva also said, “Great holiness consists in carrying out the little duties of each moment.” When Jesus sees that we are faithful in the little duties of our ordinary life, such as helping out at home, being a good son or daughter, He will entrust us with greater things. This is what Jesus promises in Luke 16:10, “You have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things.” So, all of us have the same calling in life, to live our ordinary lives in an extraordinary way.



**“Great  
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little duties  
of each  
moment.”**

**St Josemaria  
Escriva**



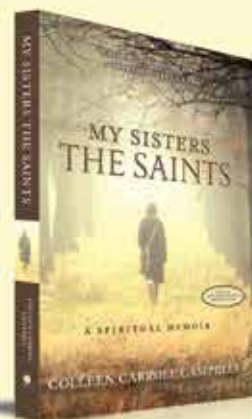
## FILM - SILENCE 2016

Silence is a film of bravery and persistence set in the 17<sup>th</sup> century Japan when the Church was heavily persecuted. It is the story of two Jesuit priests who travel to Japan to find their missing mentor and to spread Catholicism throughout the country during Shimbara Rebellion.

## SONG - UNSHAKABLE LOVE ELEVATION YOUTH - 2018



the **WORD**  
among us®

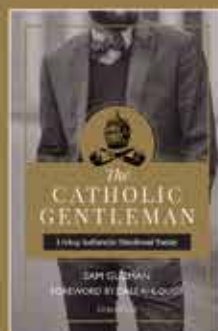


## APP - THE WORD AMONG US

This app is a great tool to help young people read more Scripture and take part in the Liturgy. It includes, Mass reading for every day, daily meditations based on the readings, articles and personal testimonies.

## BLOG - CATHOLIC GENTLEMEN

For men who think faith is dull and being holy is against their masculinity, this blog shows that spiritual life is full of hardship and adventure but also the most rewarding. This blog is designed in order to inspire the men of the Church to love and serve God, as well as to strive for holiness.



## BOOK - MY SISTER THE SAINTS: A SPIRITUAL MEMOIR

by Colleen Carroll Campbell

This is a very inspirational and uplifting book in which Campbell narrates her life's profound change by six saintly women.



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Feona Pazhuka  
from Florida, USA,  
emphasises the role  
each one of us should  
take up to bring a  
radical change in our  
world today.



Imagine if all our senses brought about blessings to the lives of other individuals. Let me put this into perspective: if our every glance, our every word and touch, began to bring Christ's love into the lives of others, would we not see a revival happening in our parishes, our states, our country, and our world today? If our eyes, mouth, and hands are a means of Christ's anointing to flow, then shouldn't we be asking Jesus for this grace?

We might be thinking, "hmm... is that even possible?" Well, the Word of God says, "for mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible" (Mark 10.27). With the anointing that God has given us and continues to give us, we can indeed bring about world-wide change. In-fact, our very bodies can become an outlet of the blessings that God wants to shower upon the world! In the book of Genesis (33:10), it says, "for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God". Through just one small action, we can radiate the love of Christ upon the heart of an individual.

“Christ  
has  
no body  
now  
on earth,  
but  
yours.”

Brothers and sisters in Christ, now is the time to begin praying for the courage to evangelize! We have to have this deep desire to be the ones to set the world on fire for Jesus!

When our love for Jesus has an unshakeable foundation, then the world around us will notice that something about us is different-our very countenance

will begin to emanate Christ! So many people around us today are deprived of Jesus, but the moment that we decide to use our very presence as a means of bringing His love into the lives of others, then there will be radical change in our world today!

From here on, may our prayers be like: "Jesus, may my hands be a source of anointing to flow; may your blessings flow through every glance of mine. May every word that I speak, be yours and may they pierce the hearts of all those listening to me."

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are His body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."  
St Teresa of Avila



*"Christian hope, nourished by the light of Christ, makes the resurrection and life shine even in the darkest nights of the world." Pope Francis*



## GLOBAL CATHOLIC NEWS

Compiled by Smitha George

### WIMBLEDON CHAMP'S SPECIAL COMPANION

Raleigh: Abbey Forbes, the 18-year-old winner of the junior girl's doubles championship at Wimbledon, has kept an inspirational book in her tennis bag at recent competitions and for all seven Wimbledon matches. The book, from her confirmation sponsor, Joan Monti, is a daily devotional called 'Jesus Calling'. "I decided that I was going to keep that book in my tennis bag," Forbes said. "Every match. Every practice. I open it and I read the daily reading or confession. And I pray on it. It just keeps me connected to my faith while I am playing sports," she told.



### AMERICA'S TELEVANGELIST MOVES CLOSER TO SAINTHOOD



Atlanta: The late Archbishop Fulton Sheen, a charismatic figure of U.S.A is one step closer to sainthood. He is known for his preaching and especially his work on television and radio. Sheen was called the first "televangelist". He moved to television with "Life is Worth Living" which had a prime time audience of 30 million people and did so well it challenged the rating of shows hosted by others televisions channels. Being a recipient of Emmy Award, he used the shows not only to preach Christianity but also to condemn dictators like Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin.

### WHAT IS POPE FRANCIS' SALARY?

Vatican: As the leader of the Catholic Church in the entire world, one would assume that Pope Francis receives a generous salary in compensation for his many duties. However, the truth is quite the opposite. The New York Times reported, Vatican spokesman, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, ended speculation about the pope's salary, saying, "Pope Francis does not and has never received a salary."



### POPE GIVES RELICS OF ST PETER TO ORTHODOX PATRIARCH



Rome: Pope Francis has given the patriarch of Orthodox Church a famous reliquary containing bone fragments believed to belong to St Peter. The bronze case contains nine of the bone fragments discovered during excavations of the necropolis under St Peters Basilica. The handover was done on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul when Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople sent a delegation to the Vatican for the celebrations. Pope's gesture has been described as a gigantic step toward concrete Christian unity.

### NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS UNDER THREAT OF ERODING

Paris: After a fire destroyed the roof of Notre-Dame de Paris, officials are concerned that the building still has a risk of collapse. Now instead of a fire threatening the 850-year-old building, it is the record summer temperatures that may further erode the stonework. France, and most of Europe, is in the midst of a record-setting heatwave. On April 15, a fire started in the center of the cathedral's roof and nearly destroyed the entire building before it was put out. The cause of the fire at Notre-Dame is still undetermined. On June 15, Mass was celebrated at one of the side altars for the first time since the fire.



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**KINGDOM**  
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CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

PUBLISHED BY: SEHION MINISTRIES UK

MARY SAID,  
"HERE AM I,  
THE SERVANT OF THE  
LORD; LET IT BE WITH  
ME ACCORDING TO  
YOUR WORD."  
(LUKE 1:38)



"FROM MARY WE LEARN TO SURRENDER TO GOD'S WILL IN ALL  
THINGS. FROM MARY WE LEARN TO TRUST EVEN WHEN ALL  
HOPE SEEMS GONE. FROM MARY WE LEARN TO LOVE CHRIST  
HER SON AND THE SON OF GOD!"

ST POPE JOHN PAUL II



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