

Hope for mercy

# SUNDAY *Plus*

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week IV** Year C**Jubilee of Marian Spirituality | Prisons Week**  
(to 18 October)

## Wholly acceptable



Looney is a fifteen-year-old from a gang located close to our office... And he has just been disgorged from one of the twenty-four probation camps in Los Angeles County. His sentence was a mere six months, but it was his first such detention...

He extricates a long envelope, squished in his side pocket, and proudly slaps it in front of me on my desk. "My grades," he announces, "from camp"... I say to him, "If you were my son, I'd be the proudest man alive..."

I look at this little guy and know that he has been returned to a situation largely unchanged. Parents are either absent at any given time or plagued by mental illness. Chaos and dysfunction are what will now surround him as before. His grandmother, a good

woman, whose task it is now to raise this kid, is not quite up to the task. I know that one month before this moment I buried Looney's best friend, killed in our streets for no reason at all.

I said to him, "I bet you're afraid to be out, aren't you?"... he folds his arms on the front of my desk and rests his sobbing head on his folded arms... "I just want to have a life."

I say to him, "I know you think you're in a deep, dark hole, you're in a tunnel. It's in the nature of tunnels that if you just keep walking, the light's gonna show up."

Recognising that we are wholly acceptable is God's own truth for us – waiting to be discovered.

*Gregory Boyle SJ, Tattoos on the Heart: the power of boundless compassion*

Lord God, I sometimes hope that people will see the hidden goodness in me and forgive me for my shortcomings. Help me to show a similar understanding and mercy towards others. **✚** Amen.

## A cry for help

By Mary Bell

Do you have a favourite charity? These days we are often accosted by earnest young people bearing clipboards asking us to sign up for regular donations to good causes. We feel guilty when we are unable to make such a commitment. How do we discriminate between those who have great need?

You may think leprosy is no longer a problem but LEPROA, the global charity that continues to work with sufferers from the

disease, says even if someone has the leprosy arrested by modern drugs they are often ostracised by their families, so great is the stigma.

But suffering doesn't have to be as dramatic as leprosy. There are people around us too proud or timid to ask for help: those who are poor, lonely, unemployed, bereaved: the list is endless.

Poor people are always with us, as Jesus said. The important thing is not to pass by on the other side of the road.

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

I, too, appeal to the powerful of the world by repeating these ever-relevant words: never again war!

Pope Leo XIV

## Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

### Jubilee of Marian Spirituality Mother of Hope

Hope finds its supreme witness in the Mother of God. In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naive optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life. Like every mother, whenever Mary looked at her Son, she thought of his future. Surely, she kept pondering in her heart the words spoken to her in the Temple by the elderly Simeon... At the foot of the cross, she witnessed the passion and death of Jesus, her innocent son. Overwhelmed with grief, she nonetheless renewed her "fiat", never abandoning her hope and trust in God... In the travail of that sorrow, offered in love, Mary became our Mother, the Mother of Hope... the sure hope that, amid the tempests of this life, the Mother of God comes to our aid, sustains us and encourages us to persevere in hope and trust.

*Pope Francis, Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the year 2025:24*



## READINGS

**Today:**  
2 Kings 5:14-17  
2 Timothy 2:8-13  
Luke 17:11-19

**Monday:**  
Romans 1:1-7  
Luke 11:29-32

**Tuesday:**  
Romans 1:16-23  
Luke 11:37-41

**Wednesday:**  
Romans 2:1-11  
Luke 11:42-46

**Thursday:**  
Romans 3:21-30  
Luke 11:47-54

**Friday:**  
Romans 4:1-8  
Luke 12:1-7

**Saturday:**  
2 Timothy 4:10-17b  
Luke 10:1-9

**Next Sunday:**  
Exodus 17:8-13  
2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2  
Luke 18:1-8