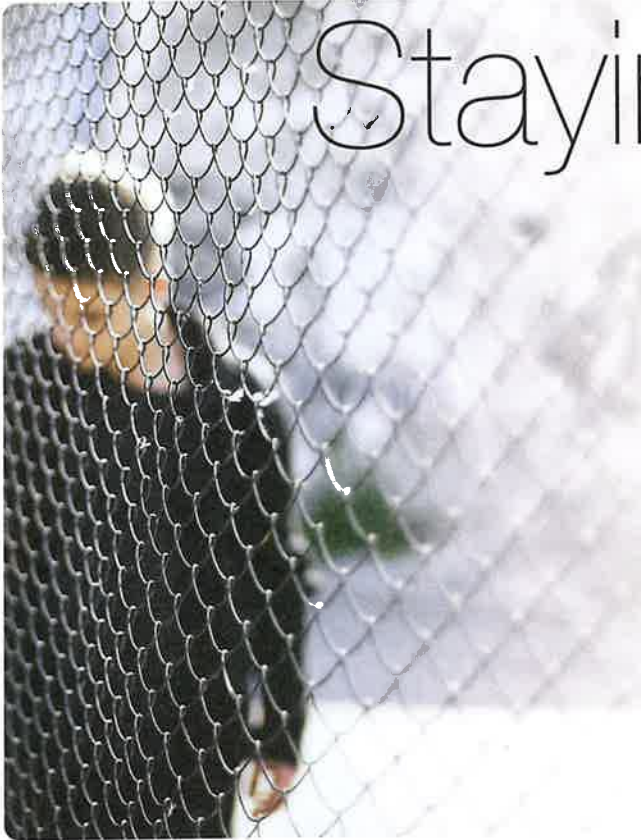


SUNDAY *Plus*

3rd Sunday of Easter **Divine Office Week III** Year A



Staying with them

Greg's visits with each kid are short, mostly a touching of bases. He gives this one a message from a girlfriend. He asks that one when his court date is and how his case is coming. He brings to a third a bag of personals – shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste.

"I always give priority to the kids who have no-one," says Greg. "About half the kids here have no-one, no family member who will bring them personals. So, I bring them what they need."

Watching him it becomes obvious why visiting kids in juvenile facilities has long been one of the building blocks of Greg's strategy. When a kid is locked up, he is at his most vulnerable, so the priest has a better shot at turning him around. "They always cry when they're locked up," says Greg...

If kids are incarcerated in facilities that are too far away to visit regularly, Greg writes to them, sending packets of personals through the mail as needed. He gets an average of forty letters a month and answers every one. The kids guard these letters as treasured objects, quoting passages to each other, and back to Greg months later when they are free.

Greg also goes to court or writes letters on kids' behalf when he believes in their cause. All these things – combined with helping them locate jobs, getting them into school, running interference with the bureaucracy, if need be, visiting them in the hospital when they've been shot – give him leverage. "Juice," as the kids call it. Influence.

Celeste Fremon, Father Greg & the Homeboys: the extraordinary journey of Father Greg Boyle and his work with the Latino gangs of East L.A.

It is our faith that gives us strength. It is our faith that enables us to see the light of Jesus Christ in our lives and to understand how important it is to live our faith.

Pope Leo XIV


I am with you

Be still and know I am with you.
be still, I am the Lord.

I will not leave you orphans.
I leave with you my world. Be one.

You fear the light may be fading,
you fear to lose your way.
Be still, and know I am near you.
I'll lead you to the day and the sun.

Ann Scott

Lord God, help me to bring your life and love to everyone I meet. Give me the courage to look for you even in the most difficult places.  Amen.



Feast of the week Thursday 23 April

St George (d. 303)

Dragons were in rather short supply when St George was an officer in Rome's elite Praetorian Guard. Contrary to popular belief, it's highly unlikely that he ever met a dragon and even less likely that he fought and killed one. In fact, the story of his battle with a dragon post-dates George by about five hundred years.

Much of George's life is unknown. He lived and died during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian, who was responsible for the deaths of an uncounted number of early Christians, many after extreme brutality. Diocletian decreed that everybody in the Empire must sacrifice to pagan deities. George refused. His position in the Praetorian Guard meant an inevitable death sentence: Diocletian couldn't be seen to pardon a member of his own bodyguard!

As a Roman citizen, George – like St Paul – was beheaded, on 23 April 303. Unforeseen by Diocletian, his own wife, the Empress Alexandra, witnessed the execution, became a Christian and was herself martyred.

READINGS

Today:
Acts 2:14, 22-33
1 Peter 1:17-21
Luke 24:13-35

Monday:
Acts 6:8-15
John 6:22-29

Tuesday:
Acts 7:51 – 8:1
John 6:30-35

Wednesday:
Acts 8:1-8
John 6:35-40

Thursday:
Acts 8:26-40
John 6:44-51
England: St George (Solemnity):
Apocalypse 12:10-12
John 15:18-21 or 15:1-8

Friday:
Acts 9:1-20
John 6:52-59

Saturday:
1 Peter 5:5-14
Mark 16:15-20

Next Sunday:
Acts 2:14, 36-41
1 Peter 2:20-25
John 10:1-10