



We're talking about...FRIENDSHIP!!

By Rachel Rose

What kind of friend are you?

Few of us would like to think that we are a bully, but sometimes we do it just by picking on someone or calling them names. It's done by not giving someone the freedom to be themselves, maybe because they are a bit different. You could ask yourself: 'what would Jesus do in this situation?'

It can be lonely being a teenager. I sometimes fell out with friends, and I remember the pain of being left out. There was pressure to do well at school from some groups, and pressure to not do my homework from others! If I didn't do what everyone else did, I felt I would be seen as: 'different'.

Variety is the spice of life.

I never really had one 'best mate', that I could share my deepest secrets with. I preferred being mates with lots of different people. That included lads as well as girls. Boys seem to have a more laid-back attitude to life. Whereas, us girls get into all kinds of emotional tangles with our friends! I also made friends through activities I did outside school hours. I found that taking up a sport, or a hobby is a good way to meet new people.

Seeing God in others.

Now, I'm blessed with an amazing bunch of friends. Many are Catholic and they help me to keep my faith alive. They remind me that I'm not alone in my beliefs, even though I can't always explain, in words, why I believe in God. A lot of my friends aren't Catholics, but all of them teach me something about myself. They affirm, support and love me. They make me smile, and in some small way, reveal God to me.

Ask God to send the right friend in your path, at the right time. And look for opportunities to be that person, for others.

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'Yfaith' is an initiative of Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation (CASE)
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