

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 26-February-2017

Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time

We are cherished by the tremendous love of God, tender and forgiving above every human love. We pray that we may be able to surrender to this love in perfect trust.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

The Word of God

Preparing a homily is always a demanding task. This is so for many reasons, first of all it is a daunting task to try and help people to take the Word of God to heart, it is also a huge responsibility and privilege to take the word of God to heart and be inspired by the Word. On occasion, I have been advised to prepare my homily with the word of God in one hand and the paper in the other hand.

Today I hear that a child becomes homeless every five hours in Ireland; it is a shocking statistic. Children and their families are waiting for life changing medical interventions, the waiting goes on and the pain and medical conditions deteriorates. The Gospel this Sunday says "I tell you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat; nor about your body and how you are to clothe it." "Surely life means more than food and the body more than clothes." Difficult to answer the question of pain, struggle and suffering in our world but next to impossible to provide an answer when calamity comes to our door and is part of daily living.

The reading from Isaiah today expresses the turmoil, isolation that is part of life. Zion is saying "The Lord has abandoned me and the Lord has forgotten me. Does a mother forget the baby at her breast or fail to cherish the child of her womb. Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you." Lord give me a sense and a firm belief of your presence in my life and world at all times but especially in times of suffering, pain, chaos , distress, grief and loss.

George O'Mahony

Reflection for Parents

Without satellite navigation or day planner, birds know when to migrate. They haven't planned their trip weeks in advance nor have they packed their belongings. They don't buy travel insurance in case something goes wrong. They just know to go. If we plan a big trip like that, we may find ourselves worrying about all the possible scenarios and take precautions to avoid problems. When we worry about things, we use a lot of energy that exhausts us and may not have been necessary in the first place. But what if there are really dangers lurking ahead? Ask yourself: What possible good can come from the situation if it works out in the way I worry that it will? What gift might God have for me if my plans don't go my way . . . if it's God's will and not mine that wins in the end?

In God alone is my soul at rest.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Jesus was .tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us with confidence, then, approach him in our many needs.

Reader

For the followers of Christ: that they may take the path of self-denial and renewal this Lent.

Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who hold public office: that they may not seek their own interests and glory, but to serve others humbly and faithfully.

Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For all those who have no time for the things of the spirit.

Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For ourselves: that we may have the courage and strength to try to overcome our temptations.

Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are suffering the effects of war, famine and persecution in particular the people of Aleppo, Mosul & Nigeria.

Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for the intentions of all here present.

Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Priest

Heavenly Father, in your gentle mercy guide our efforts at renewing our lives this Lent, for we know that, left to ourselves, we cannot do your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

† IN SYMPATHY †**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED :**

Margaret McCarthy, Peter O'Donovan Crescent.
 Denis Murray, Raheen, Carrigrohane.
 Donal Murphy, Wilton.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS OR OTHERWISE REMEMBERED:

Paddy & Julia Murphy, Ovens.
 Rose & Ted Moylan, Earlwood Estate.
 Dan O'Connell, West Village.
 Sean O'Sullivan, Togher.
 Sean & May O'Callaghan, Galway.
 Bernie McNamara, St Mary's Tce, Carrigrohane.
 Jim Deasy, Aherla.
 John O'Connell, Westcliffe.
 Dan Murphy, Bray.
 Dan & Margaret Murphy, Knockburden.
 Cunningham Family, Waterford.
 Trevor Philips, England.
 Martin Ginnane, Shanakiel.
 Tim & Lily Lucey, Prosperity Square.
 Sean Doab, The Crescent.
 Jimmy & Kitty O'Mahony, Kilcrohan.
 Margaret Kelleher, Castlepark.
 Sheila Twohig, Windsor.
 Patrick & Ann Ginnane, Killkenny.
 John O'Sullivan.
 Joe & Mona Thuillier, Kinsale.
 Dec. Members of the Brennan & Murphy Families.
 Edward O'Sullivan, Glenleigh.
 Lynn Yelverton, Innishmore Lawn.
 Ellen O'Callaghan, Madonna House.
 Sean Coakley, "Hillview" Muskerry Estate.
 Mary Linehan, Inniscarra View.

Pilgrimage to Knock

The Annual pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Sunday, 28th May 2017. Bus is leaving at bus stop outside the Garda Station. Early Booking advised – For details please contact: Sally at 021-4870954 or Cathleen on 021-4874730

CROWLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK**Eight Week In Ordinary Time**

- 26 Sunday Is 49: 14-15. Ps 61. 1 Cor 4:1-5. Mt 6:24-34. Lect I: 658
- 27 Monday Eccles. (Sir) 17:24-29. Ps. 31. Mk. 10:17-27. Lect II: 94
- 28 Tuesday Eccles. (Sir) 35:1-12. Ps. 49. Mk. 10:28-31. Lect II: 96
- 01 Wednesday Joel. 2:12-18. Ps. 50. 2 Cor. 5:20-6:2. Mt. 6:1-6. 16-18. Lect I: 191
- 02 Thursday Deut. 30:15-20. Ps. 1. Lk. 9:22-25. Lect I: 194
- 03 Friday Is. 58: 1-9. Ps. 50. Mt. 9: 14-15. Lect I: 196
- 04 Saturday Is. 58:9-14. Ps. 85. Lk. 5:27-32. Lect I: 198

Next Sunday's Readings 05-March-2017

Gen. 2:7-9, 3:1-7. Ps 50. Rom. 5:12-19. Mt. 4:1-11. Lect I: 201

BAPTISMS**WE WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY ALL THOSE WHO WERE BAPTISED RECENTLY :**

Matilda Quinn Fenning, Avoncourt.
 James Michael Hurley, Rosewood.
 Ellie Eileen O'Riordan, Castle Road.
 Odhran Seamus McGrath, Maglin Grove.
 Culann Aodhan O'Brien, Chestnut Grove.

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 49:14-15

One of the desert fathers is reported as saying that 'Forgetfulness is the root of all evil'. This sounds a bit extreme. Surely to forget someone's birthday or anniversary is not so serious. Memory lapses are understandable in busy lives, especially as we grow older. This reading shows how serious forgetfulness is in linking it with the notion of abandonment. To forget may be to abandon someone. God has perfect memory. He never abandons his creation.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

The 'iceberg theory' of morality warns against reducing morality to external acts and urges us to explore the human heart. This reading stresses the role of the 'secret intentions of men's hearts' in moral judgement. We may fool other people by hiding our real motives for acting, but God's searchlight judgment is infallible. May this light illuminate our fallible consciences.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:24-34

This text is surely related to the beatitude of the pure of heart, which is concerned with single-mindedness, putting God first and resistance to idolatry. Anthony Bloom once used the image of Gulliver in the land of Lilliput to illustrate this point. Having been washed ashore unconscious, Gulliver awakes, but can't get up because the little folk have tied him down by each of his strands of long hair. The cumulative effect of the worries mentioned in the gospel, immobilise us and prevent us from achieving the liberation associated with God's Kingdom and belief in his providential care. Every desire of the heart must be subordinated to firm belief that in God alone 'all shall be well'.

