

Prayer is an essential component of history because the cry of the poor and the world's victims, which ascends to God as a plea for justice and peace, is never lost. As Jesus said, "Will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night?" (Luke 18:7). Those who consider prayer an evasion of history or an easy answer show that they do not know the meaning of hope and expectation, and that they experience the succession of historical events as an eternal continuum governed by fatalism and cynicism.

When the successor of Peter asks the church to pray, what he asks is that the church act in a way that is as consistent as possible with its faith, and that it be present in the world with the only arms it possesses, the arms of intercession that have the power to save. He asks the church to be present in the world without being worldly, and to let its actions be inspired by listening to the Word of God. As the Psalmist says: "I will listen for the word of God; the Lord will proclaim peace to his people, to the faithful, so that they will not return to their madness!" (Psalm 85:9). Without prayer one may have a vague sense of belonging to Christianity, but instead of authentic faith, there is only ideology; instead of hope, there is self-sufficiency; instead of Christian love, there is only frenzied philanthropic activity driven by a desire for visibility. Even when appearances seem to demonstrate the contrary, prayer - dialogue with the God who saves - will save the world.

From the book "Words of Spirituality" by Enzo Bianchi, SPCK, London 2002 and reprinted in 2012.

**Fr. Michael Carey Adm**

**Mass Intentions for this coming week: St Colmcille's:**

<b>Mon</b> 8.00am Special Intention	
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Special Intention	<b>Sat 6.30pm</b> Jerry Murphy
<b>Tues</b> 8.00am Dec members of the Casey Family	
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Sarah-Jane & Tony Reddington	<b>Sun 8.30am</b> Mary Gannon
<b>Wed</b> 8.00 am Francis McCormack	
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Mass in Thanksgiving & Intentions	<b>Sun 11.30am</b> Liam Whelan
<b>Thurs</b> 8.00am Mr Canavan	
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00 am Patrick & Kathleen Deegan	<b>Sun 7.30pm</b> Marie Watson
<b>Fri</b> 8.00 Sr Anna & Idus Cuddihy	
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Gerard Roche	
<b>Sat</b> 10.00 am Dec members of Stokes & Higgins Family	

**Church of the Visitation Drynam**      **The Visitation of the BVM**  
**Mass Times for Drynam: Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri: 9.20am. Sun, 10.00am 11.00am (Irish) & 12 noon.**

**Drynam Mass Times for July and August:** Mon, Tue, Wed each week: 9.20 am  
 Fri 1st August and Fri 15th August: 9.20am  
 Sun: 10.00 am and 12.00 am  
 Regular 9.20 am Mass on Fridays and 11.00am Irish Mass on Sundays will resume in September.



**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today we have two versions of a parable, the original and a later Church interpretation. Communities of faith are always "mixed," in that some people are fully engaged, some are half-hearted and many, perhaps most, are in between. What to do? The temptation to go for a radical, purified Church has been a recurring one across history. The teaching of this parable is let things alone – it is not for us to judge. It could be that less committed believers may change and a welcoming, compassionate approach may enable that to happen.

**Prayer** - Jesus, your compassion to all however fractured inspires us today to recognise our own need of your grace. Help us work on the plank in our own eyes before we dare offer to remove splinter in our neighbour's eye.

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948  
 Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes at Parish Office, Seatown Road-8407277  
 (Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)  
 Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-10.30am)  
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16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Praying within history**

*by Enzo Bianchi, a layman and Prior of the Monastery of Bose in northern Italy.*

*"See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul"*

**Newsletter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2014**



It may puzzle or irritate some, but every time a war breaks out the successor of Peter, the Pope, asks Christians to pray insistently so that pathways of peace, dialogue and then reconciliation might be opened; bishops and pastors of other Christian denominations also call for prayer; Christians of all ages, men and women from every corner of the globe turn to their God, Father of all, in a heartfelt prayer of intercession. Is this a useless rite? A pacifying refuge for the conscience? No, prayer itself is the eloquence of their faith: if there were no prayer - no addressing God as 'you' - there would be no faith, no trust placed in God, no adherence to the living Lord. For Christians, prayer is action par excellence, 'work that needs to be done,' praxis, activity that is effective within history. In times of war, we quickly discover the extent of our own powerlessness and our inability to arrive at a clear understanding of the reasons behind a conflict.

Almost daily we hear a denunciation of the century that has just ended as a century steeped in blood, but even today we find ourselves facing situations that evoke the beginning of the last century. But it is precisely when Christians discover the extent of their own powerlessness that they turn to the Lord: not to invoke magic solutions, evade involvement and responsibility, or refuse to take part in history, but because their faith in the Lord of history moves them to intercede. 'To intercede' means 'to step between' one reality and another, to introduce into a negative situation elements capable of bringing about a change in the situation. It means expressing solidarity with those in need, helping them to the extent that our ability and our understanding of the situation permit, and above all fulfilling the will of the Lord, which is always forgiveness, peace, and fullness of life. Jesus said, "If you, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13).

This is the 'good gift' Christians ask for in prayer: the Holy Spirit who acts in the hearts and minds of all people, inspiring thoughts and plans of peace. This is what Christians can be sure they will obtain, because it was Jesus' promise. Guided by the Spirit, our prayer truly does become effective in history: in it we gather together the voices of all of the world's victims and their cries for justice. Our prayer becomes the voice of all of the innocent blood poured out during the course of history, from that of the righteous Abel to the blood of the world's poor, of those unarmed Kosovars, Albanian or Serbs [or Syrians, or Iraqis, or Somalians ] who have been victims of violence and of a war planned by others - a war from which no victor can emerge, but only men and women who have been defeated, disfigured for generations by the brutality of one human being's violence against another.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon - "The Lord is gracious and merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him."*

### A Big Thank You

My next door neighbour Emma Hughes and her cousin Amy Ryan (both 3<sup>rd</sup> class girls) ran a Sale of Work in aid of the parish last Sunday. They put a lot of thought and effort into it and it was a marvellous afternoon. They sold minerals, cakes, books and toys and ran a raffle. Emma baked rice crispy buns on the morning of the Sale of Work and it was held in Amy's front garden, so a lot of preparation involved there. Later on that Sunday evening they presented me with €28 and didn't deduct any expenses or commission! Well done girls! I really appreciate what you did for your Parish and I know you derived great fun and enjoyment from the experience. Thanks also to their parents and sisters and brothers and neighbours.



### Living the Paschal Mystery

The impulse of the first parable is to pull the weeds. The impulse during our whole Christian living is to be impatient with ourselves as we grow in our discipleship. Part of living the paschal mystery is to be patient with ourselves, especially when we have failed. The mercy, forgiveness, leniency, justice and patience of God encourage repentance (see 1<sup>st</sup> reading). Even our mistakes are ways that we have "ears...to hear" and learn better the ways of God. God's final judgement comes at the "end of the age" when, hopefully, all of us have lived the ways of patience and faithfulness and have borne fruit. *(Source: Living Liturgy)*

### Lourdes

The Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes in September is now closed. All the available places have been booked.

**A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE** Jesus came to tell us that he wants us all to be in paradise, and that Hell – of which one speaks little in our time – exists and is eternal for all who close their hearts to his love. .... Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI

### God's Housekeepers

The Parish is urgently in need of a new team of Church cleaners. About four people are required and it involves about 30 minutes work once a month, preferably to be done after the 10 o'clock weekday Mass. If you are free to do this good deed, please leave your name in the Sacristy or contact Colette in the Parish Office 8407277

### Standing Orders

Over 80 houses have received notification from the Parish concerning the closure of our account by Danske Bank. The letter requests the setting up of a new standing order. To date we have received back around 30. Thank you to all who have done so. Can I prevail upon the outstanding recipients to return as soon as possible? **Thank You**

## St Colmcille's Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

St Colmcille's Parish Pilgrimage to Knock takes place on Saturday 9th August. Coach departs from 'The Star' at 8am sharp. Cost for coach only is €15. Stopover for breakfast/snack en-route. Evening meal/carvery on return at Percy French Hotel, Strokestown. For booking contact Mary 087 2711376 or Ita 01 8402268

### St. Colmcille's - Summer Schedule

There will be no 10.00am Sunday Morning Mass from next Sunday until 14<sup>th</sup> September when it will resume. There is a 10.00am Mass in the Church of the Visitation, Drynam and St. Finian's, River Valley

### Feast this Week

**St. Mary Magdalene – Tuesday 22nd July.** Stood by the Cross of Jesus; with two other women she discovered the empty tomb; she was granted an appearance of the Risen Lord early the same day, from which incident she has been described as 'the apostle to the apostles'. The Gospels give no warrant for identifying her with the 'woman who was a sinner' who anointed Christ's feet (Lk.7:37) or with Mary the sister of Martha who anointed him (Jn.12:3). Tradition relates that she spent her last years as a hermit in Provence (France).

**St. James, Apostle – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July,** son of Zebedee and brother of John, called the Greater. He was one of the three apostles, along with St. Peter and St. John, who witnessed the Transfiguration (Mt.17:1) and the agony in the Garden (Mt.16:37). He was put to death by Herod Agrippa about the year 44, being the first of the apostles to die for Christ. His shrine is at Compostella in Spain

### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - 8th September

9 day pilgrimage taking in all the major sites - Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. In addition to a local guide there is an Irish Spiritual Leader who will celebrate Mass each day at one of the sacred shrines. Full details are available from MAP Travel (01) 8783111 or [www.maptravel.ie](http://www.maptravel.ie)

Fr Pat Byrne from the Divine World Missionaries would like to thank parishioners for your exceptional generosity on his recent visit. Donations from the Parish came to **€3077.99**

### Swords Meals on Wheels are looking for a Relief Coordinator

Role: We are looking for a person who would be willing to provide back-up support to the existing co-ordinators e.g. provide cover for a short period or in an emergency. As a Relief co-ordinator you will help to ensure the smooth running of day-to-day activities and associated tasks. Generally the time requirement would be 3hrs per day for 2 days. The role is purely voluntary, unpaid. Please contact Paul Mc Cormack on Ph:0857232825