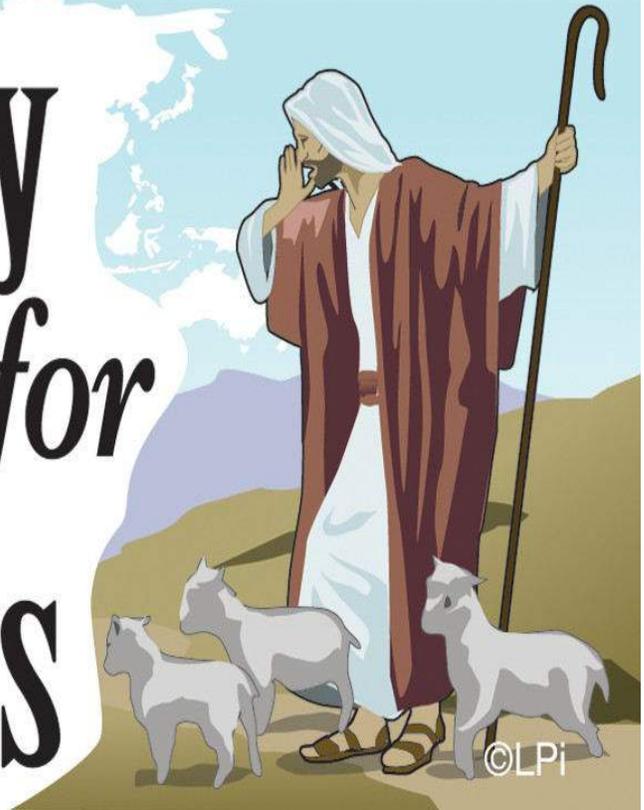


World Day of Prayer for Vocations



Mass Times

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30

Sunday: 9.00, 10.30, 12.00

Weekdays:

10.00 Monday – Friday

7.30 Tuesday only

Parish Staff

Fr. Joe McDonald P.P. Tel 6 265 119

Fr. Seamus Ryan P.E.

Fr John Atooh Parish Chaplain

Sr. Anne Marie Moynihan Parish Sister

Secretary: Moya Doyle Tel 6 265 695

Parish Office: 9.30 - 2.00 Mon to Thu

Email:

stmatthewsparishcentre@gmail.com

Sacristy: Tel 6 264 448

Masses, Baptisms, Certs

Baptism

1st and 3rd Saturday of each month

1st Sunday of each month

Preparation meetings for Parents and Godparents are held twice each month.

Details available in sacristy.

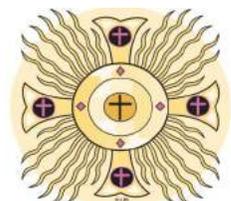
A month's notice is required.

Eucharistic Adoration

Mon 10.30 – 4.00

Wed 10.30 – 9.00

Fri 10.30 – 9.00



Divine Mercy Meeting

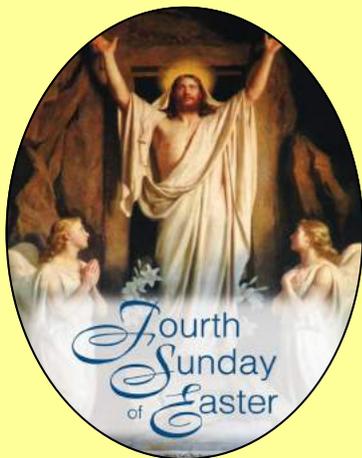
Every Wed Evening @ 8.00

in the Prayer Room

Parish Centre

Tea/Coffee & Chat after 10.00 Mass

Mon - Fri



Date	Time	Mass Intentions		
Sat 16 Apr	6.30	Patrick Byrne Ann Byrne	Brian White	Patricia White
Sun 17	10.30	Margaret McNevin		
Sun 17	12.00	Sheila Eaton	Barbara Browne	Pat Fitzsimons
Tue 19	7.30	Margaret McNevin	Mary Carroll	Doyle Family
Wed 20	10.00	Noel Mullen	Mary Mullen	
Thu 21	10.00	Bernadette Heavey		



Recent Funerals from St. Matthew's:

Christopher Boylan	Frances Byrne
Hugh O'Neill	Mary Kearney
Kenneth Courage	Brian Higgins

**Anne O'Donnell
(Anne in the Shop)**

will be taking part in the marathon in June in aid of the Hospice in Harold's Cross

She will be collecting outside the church after all the masses today as part of her marathon fund-raising campaign.

Please be as generous as you can for a very worthy cause.

Ballyfermot 1916 Commemoration & Festival Event

21—24 April All events in the Community Civic Centre
Schools Debating Competition

A Living Flag Event with over 200 primary school pupils

Drama: "Lost Voices" about the children of 1916 Based on Joe Duffy's Book

Concert by the Beermats

Ceili Mor for all ages

Contact Kate Higgins Jackson for further details

Mobile: 087 271 7638 or Email: ballyfermot1916festival@gmail.com

Ballyfermot Library

The Build up to the 1916 Military Tribunals and their aftermath.

Talk and Visual Presentation

by Raymond McGovern

Wed 20 April @ 6.30

Ballyfermot Library

Admission Free — Booking Essential

Phone: 626 93 24

SPECIAL NOTICE

There will be a Farewell Mass and Evening Reception for our Pastor Emeritus,

Rev. Fr. Seamus Ryan

at 6.30 pm, Saturday April 23rd, here in St. Matthew's. This event will allow us, as a parish community, to show our appreciation, and the huge debt of gratitude we owe Fr. Seamus, and for us to ask God's blessing on this new chapter of his priesthood as he returns to Cappamore. I look forward to you joining us on this special occasion,

Fr. Joe

Don't forget to visit our website,

www.stmatthewsballyfermot.com

And our Facebook page,

www.facebook.com/st.matthews.ballyfermot/

Church Collection Totals

Week Beginning 3/4

First Collection	808
Share Collection	585
Family Offering	960

FAITH MOMENT

Holy Saturday v Easter Saturday?

Holy Saturday is the day after Good Friday, and the day before Easter Sunday.

Easter Saturday is the Saturday after Easter Sunday.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

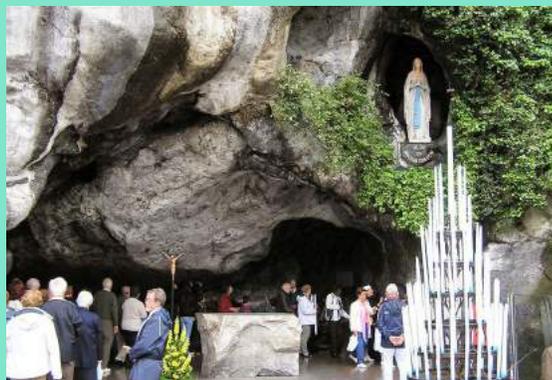
The Seven Storey Mountain
Centenary Edition
Thomas Merton

SPCK Classics London 2015 pp 429
Available in Veritas, Dublin

Famous autobiography of perhaps best known monk in the world, a real spiritual pilgrimage.

'It is a rare pleasure to read an autobiography with a pattern and meaning valid for all of us'.

Graham Greene



Feast of St. Matthew

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes

17 – 22 September 2016 — Hotel Padoue

Cost €739 per person sharing

(inclusive of Airport Taxes and Insurance)

Single Room Supplement €175 per person

All Meals Included

Deposit €200 per person

**Booking forms available
from Parish Centre**

Rumblings from the Bunker

FLYING ON ONE WING

As a direct result of last week's newsletter, and the discussion of what it means to be resurrection people, a number of you raised the issue of how difficult, in fact, it is to be hopeful. I have a lot of sympathy with this position.

This difficulty of retaining a hopeful attitude can be true in a general way. Given the daily vicissitudes of life, we can become emotionally drained. Sadly there is a great prevalence of mental unease, or dis-ease, whether this is unmedicated, mildly so, or requires more significant management or intervention. Even our general chat can be negative and heavy. In general terms the media do not herald good news. Is it true that good news does not sell well. Stories in the newspaper can often carry a degree of gore, and the boundaries of acceptability, regarding the degree of detail varies a lot. Of course a lot of what is reported is true. Terrible things do happen.

Apart from all the tough stuff we encounter, both globally and within our own community, there are of course, the experiences we have in our personal lives, and within our families. It is in family that we often experience great joy and great pain. We have learned to expand what we mean by family, but love and acceptance remain at the heart of it.

One of the most difficult things that we can experience is serious illness, that of ourselves or of a loved one. This can present as a huge challenge. It might be helpful to remind ourselves that cancer does not come from God. Sickness cannot be dressed up as good or desirable. God is all good, all giving. God is love. Illness, suffering and pain are not sent by God, to test, or try us. Jesus is the Great Healer. He wants us to be well. We must also remember that Jesus knows pain, suffering and abandonment. Our God is not aloof, unknowing or uncaring. Jesus of Nazareth knew not only extreme physical pain, but also shame, degradation and embarrassment. He also knew mental torture, the darkness of mental anguish. In modern parlance we might say he not only talked the talk but he walked the walk!

Now here is the big question, in all this, what is the Christian answer? What does our faith offer? What is the response of Jesus, to the suffering world, and indeed to us, as individuals?

One of the things that saddens me most in ministry, in my life as a priest, is to watch people struggle to an unnecessary degree. To see people suffer more than they need to. So often we, either as individuals, or as a community, are like a bird flying on one wing. We spend a lot of time enduring, as opposed to enjoying, to getting by, but not thriving, to just making it! Phew!! This is not God's dream for us. Our inheritance is richer. We are called to fulfilment, to joy. So why are we found so often hanging around the grey shadowlands of mediocrity?

At least part of the answer to this lies in the bird with one wing analogy. It saddens me that people very often neglect to tap into the huge helps that are available to us.

As pilgrims on a journey how well equipped are we for the trip?

What do we use to nourish us? I mean internally. Do we feed our souls on a diet of Jeremy Kyle and the tabloids? Does this constitute real food? If it does, it's cheap mince. We deserve fillet. Do we feed our inner world on well chosen movies, books and songs? Who are our companions? Whilst there is nothing wrong with the Britneys and Beckhams of this world, might we learn something substantial and inspiring from Matthew, or Ruth? As a pilgrim people it's extraordinary how many guardian angels are overworked and underpaid, and the only pay they want is a thank you or a hello. If you hav'nt Mary in your kitchen or your living room, you ARE the bird on one wing! No wonder you find it hard to get through each day. What about your patron saint, do you even know his or her story? Do you every talk to them? My friend, the spiritual life is tough enough without ignoring all the helps that are there for the taking. If you want to begin your detox and get your soul into better shape how about thirty minutes complete silence every day? Prayerful silence. In all this, people search for healing, often spending a fortune in the process, meanwhile the greatest source of healing is beside them, and free, the celebration of the Eucharist. Why sup gruel when the banquet beckons?