

ST MATTHEW'S FEAST DAY



Wednesday September 21st is our special Feast Day. It is the Feast of St. Matthew. On this day we thank God for the gift of Matthew and we recall why we are proud to have him as our patron and why he could prove a friend worth having here in Ballyfermot.

Schedule For the Day

The Church will be open from 9.00am - 9.00pm

There will be Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day.

9.30am Morning Prayer from The Divine Office

10.00am Mass

11.00am Tea/Coffee & Pancakes

12.00 Stations of the Cross:

Through the Eyes of Matthew

12.30pm Lunch — Soup & Fresh Rolls

3.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession

Ends at 5.00pm

6.00pm Scripture Rosary

7.00pm Talk on St. Matthew by Fr. Joe

7.30pm Mass of St. Matthew. including the launch
of a new Prayer/Litany of St. Matthew

8 30pm Benediction



N.B It is so important that the Blessed Sacrament is not left unattended during the day. Perhaps you would sign up to spend an hour in the Lord's presence on this special day. If you can make this commitment please contact Moya in the Parish Office @ 6265695



BOOK OF THE WEEK

**POPE FRANCIS
IN HIS OWN WORDS
HARPER COLLINS 2013 pp 178**

This is a beautiful compilation of things the Pope has said by Julie Schwierert and Lisa Rogak. They have given us a beautiful compendium of what Francis has said on hundreds of topics ranging from Cardinals to Catechists, from Teachers to Tango, to why he chose the name Francis, on television, and money and his mother's reaction when he joined the priesthood. Very enjoyable, informative and more than a few surprises.

Church Collection Totals

Week Beginning 28/8

First Collection	875
Share Collection	540
Family Offering	N/A

Mass Times

Saturday: 6.30 (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 9.00, 9.45 (Convent),
10.30, 12.00

Weekdays:

10.00 Monday – Friday
7.30 Tuesday

PARISH SHOP

**Cards, Calendars, Candles
and much more
available at the shop
in the Parish Centre**

Gospel Readings for the Week

Mon 12/09	Lk 7: 1-10	When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him
Tue 13/09	Lk 7:11-17	Young man I say to you arise
Wed 14/09	Jn 3:13 -17	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
Thu 15/09	Jn 19:25-27	OUR LADY OF SORROWS
Fri 16/09	Lk 8:1-3	Proclaiming and bringing the good news
Sat 17/09	Lk 8:4-15	But to others I speak in parables

Mass Intentions

Sat 10/9 6.30	William Twamley	Michael Whelan	
Sun 11/9 9.00	Nan Dooley	Essie McCabe	
Sun 11/9 10.30	Alice Doyle	Teresa Doyle	
Sun 11/9 12.00	Mollie,	Charlie Connolly	Lorraine Jackson
Thu 15/9 10.00	Helen Donoghue		

FAITH MOMENT

During his earthly ministry,
Jesus forgave sins
and healed those
who were physically and spiritually broken.



Rest in Peace

Pauline Chopra (née Keeley)
*Blessings and Sympathy
to the Family*

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

Threshold

**Church Gate Collection
This Sunday after all the Masses**

For Your Diary

**25 November @ 8.00pm
(Doors Open @ 6.30pm)**

Dublin Gospel Choir

**With Special Guests Bro. Kevin Singers
in St. Matthew's**

Tickets €12

Contact Ken Byrne @ 086 236 52 88



Rumblings from the Bunker



Did you 'GET' Mass?

It's a great phrase 'Did you get Mass?' Often its thrown in as a question or sometimes offered as another box ticked in a list of 'things to do': 'I was in such a flurry, so many things to do, but thankfully I managed to 'get' Mass'. It would be silly to make a big deal of this because it's just a manner of speaking but this and a few other things combined got me thinking. Somebody said to me recently that they came to Mass to try and say 'a mouthful of prayers', and I also know that for others coming to Mass, is at least in part, about meeting friends. It is all this and more. If there was an analysis of why people come to Mass there would be a whole host of reasons given from sense of duty to deep faith, including a raft of social, psychological and spiritual reasons in between. I have been thinking about how routine can deaden our sense of what is special and beautiful.

What I mean by this is illustrated in how often we use the phrase 'I love you'. There was a time, maybe it was 'a generational thing,' when the phrase was not used often. This is not of course to suggest the love was not there. Nowadays the phrase is said much more readily, and in some ways it is true, it could not be said often enough, but is it reasonable to ask the question, could we over use it, could we exhaust the words, could we cheapen the phrase? Could we 'sicken' ourselves of a particular song, playing it over and over again? Could we watch the same movie so many times that we feel we could act a part in it? Could we have too much icecream? I think we know that the answer is yes.

Now here is an interesting question. Maybe it's not so much 'did you get' Mass, as in did you fit it in, almost did you catch it? Rather the real question might be 'do you get Mass', as in do you understand Mass, do you appreciate or value it? This invites us to be more concerned with presence than being present. It suggests that there might be more to Mass than simply showing up. As part of the faith community, rather than bemoan at times that we did not get anything out of that Mass, to be honest enough with ourselves, to ask what did we put into that Mass? The danger for all of us who come to Mass regularly, and perhaps it is a particular danger for priests, is the danger of familiarity. Could it be, for us who believe, that Mass could become just another weekly duty or chore? Perhaps it's timely to remind ourselves, including, and maybe especially the priest, regarding what actually happens at Mass.

I do not intend to attempt, in this little column, to pen a theology of the Eucharist, but in as direct a way as possible to enable us, myself included, to reflect on what exactly happens from we greet each other at the beginning of the ceremony to the final 'being sent out', all of us, to love and serve the Lord. I think there is a movement, a dynamic, or my favourite word for it, there is a dance at the Eucharist. We come in tentatively, a little bowed, maybe more than a little burdened. We come hungry and thirsty, not for belly food but the food that lasts forever. It has no sell by date or use by date, for it is eternally fresh. When we go out we are commissioned, hopefully charged up, for a task. That task is to be an ambassador for the Kingdom of God. However for a moment let's concentrate on what happens in the middle, or at the climax of the Mass. It is here that the 'treasure not made of gold' lies. If familiarity takes over here, then this is a real tragedy.

Why is it that we term the Mass the greatest prayer on earth? Surely this is an outlandish claim that cannot be justified? Not when we remember that this is about body and blood, real flesh, real living life blood. The body and blood of Jesus. The body of Jesus battered, bloodied and tortured. The physical suffering of Jesus on the way to, and on Calvary, coming after the darkness and mental anguish of Gethsemane remind us of the fullness of the sacrifice he made. However the sad reality is that many people, including those who know the story of Jesus, and also those who, at least in their head know about his passion, do not really know why this happened. We miss this central truth even though it is contained in the actual words of consecration said at every Mass. The phrase of course is 'for the forgiveness of sins.' Wow!! So when we attend Mass we are called not to spectate or observe but to give ourselves to the action of the sacred story. So the sufferings of Jesus are directly connected with our sins. The sins that trap and enslave us, that rage, that bitter tongue, that destructive jealousy and all the other things that bind us up, destroying our freedom and making us unhappy, Jesus suffers and dies to conquer all this. So we gather to say sorry, to listen to God's word, to be fed in the depths of our soul but it would be a pity if we failed to gaze in deep gratitude at Jesus present amongst as he promised. It's in the gaze, at the consecration, that we can be sure, that all that binds us, especially sin, will not have the final say, because Jesus beat sickness, suffering, pain and above all sin, our sin, forever.