



Rumblings from the Bunker

GAY PRIDE OR JUST PRIDE?

'And you know Annie they were lovely, so happy and so friendly....and their colors! It really was a nice occasion.'

'It sounds great Mags, but tell me what are they so proud of?'

'To tell you the truth I never thought of asking them, I was just happy for them being so happy and as they were saying, so gay and free. I think a lot of them were just so happy to be Irish. I thought it was so beautiful and so innocent to hear a few of them saying how delighted they were to just be out.'

This was a little snippet I overheard the day after the recent Gay Pride Parade and it gave me a little chuckle.

Later that day by horrific contrast I heard the awful news of the brutal homophobic attack on the two young men. It was savage and disgusting and nothing can justify it. I would hope that no Christian, no Catholic would be in anyway supportive or complicit in such behavior even by tacit approval. Sadly if we believe this to be the case we are fooling ourselves. Despite the same sex marriage referendum and the change in Irish law, Ireland remains a place where there is much homophobia.

What must be of serious concern is the many 'good Catholics' who are themselves somewhat homophobic or at least see nothing much wrong with being homophobic.

It is important to be clear what we mean by homophobia. It is a form of hatred. Before it is hatred it is fear. Before it is fear it is ignorance. Ignorance in the best sense of the word, as in lacking knowledge, information or basic education. Homophobia is the hatred of people who are attracted to people of the same sex. Homophobia like any hatred has, and indeed continues to have the most terrible of consequences. These consequences range from people being excluded, to being ridiculed, to being physically and mentally damaged and sadly at times to people being seriously injured or even killed. From the point of view of those of us who are trying to live like Jesus and act according to the Gospel, hatred and specifically homophobia is always wrong.

It continues to surprise me, and perhaps the more appropriate word is 'shock' me when I encounter a deep ignorance in this regard, amongst what we might consider, very good Catholics. Do we realize that not only does the Church deplore and condemn all forms of homophobia, but the Church asks us to treat all homosexual persons with the dignity and respect they deserve.

So where does homophobia come from? This is too big a question for the 'rumblings' in that there is a long history of it and it is very ingrained in aspects of culture. Sadly it is also true that homophobia has been connected with religion. Perhaps it is more accurate to say connected with religion gone wrong, or with those who would hijack religion to use it to promote their own agenda. They belong to what I call the JSB, the 'Jesus Said Brigade'! For the most part you will find he said no such thing, or even if they quote him reasonably accurately, they do so with no regard for context. Sometimes they are genuinely ignorant Catholics, in that they simply know no better. Sometimes they are intellectually lazy Catholics. Unfortunately, and I take no satisfaction from saying this, but sometimes it's much worse than this. I say this because there is a group within the Church who directly or indirectly promotes homophobia. It is hard to imagine, but this group often fails to see that their stance puts them not only at odds with Church teaching, but perhaps more importantly puts them out of communion with Jesus.

Why the confusion? It seems that many think the core teaching of the Church around the beautiful gift of sexuality and most specifically its sacred nature gives them a green light for hateful discrimination. Of course many of them, in the living of their own lives, conveniently forget the same Church teaching has something to say to all of us about how we live our sexuality whether we are single, married, gay or straight. Don't forget Jesus reserved special ire for such hypocrisy.

Mass Intentions This Week

Clare Devitt Owen Furey Bridget Mullen
James Mullen Elizabeth O'Reilly

Leukaemia Trust Fund

Church Gate Collection
This weekend after all the Masses

Mass Times

St. Matthew's **Weekdays:**
Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30 **Mon, Thur, Fri: 10.00**
Sunday: 09.00,10.30,12.00
No Convent Mass @ 9.45 during July and August
Tuesday
10.00 Prayer Service

NO WEDNESDAY EVENING MASS
DURING JULY AND AUGUST

FAITH MOMENT

Making the Sign of the Cross at the beginning and end of each day, praying morning and evening prayers, and praying before and after a meal are some of the daily ways in which we invoke and experience God's blessings on our lives.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

THIS MAN JESUS
BRUCE VAWTER

GEOFFREY CHAPMAN PUBLISHERS
NEW YORK 1973. Pp. 216

This is a somewhat dated but no less scholarly work. Having said that, with Vawter, you are in safe hands, as he analyzes the Christ portrayed in the gospel stories. One of the particularly interesting things he does is to examine the main titles of Jesus. This book will make a significant contribution to your understanding of Jesus.

Ballyfermot Library

will be hosting a fun family event on Tuesday 17th July.

Bombinate Theatre will be presenting
"Susie & The Story Shredder"

a drama production followed by a workshop,
suitable for 7 - 10 year olds.

Parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

There will be two separate performances.
10.30am - 12.15pm and 1.30pm - 3.15pm

This is a free event, booking required.

Phone: 01 626 9324

E-Mail: ballyfermotlibrary@dublincity.ie

Weekly Collections

	June 24
First Collection	€ N/A
Papal Visit Collection	€ N/A
Family Offering	€ N/A

Concert in Aid of
St. Matthew's & Peter McVerry Trust

Friday 30th November in St. Matthews Tickets €15
Show Starts @ 7.45pm Doors open at 6pm.

Performing will be the Flukey Ukeys, The Dublin Gospel Choir, Ms. Mary Byrne, Matt Dodd, the Girls from St. Louise's School and the Boys from St. Lorcan's BNS.
Contact Ken Byrne for more information on 086 236 52 88

Cemetery Masses:

Newlands Cross: Today July 8 @ 3:00pm

Don't forget to visit our website

www.stmatthewsballyfermot.com

And our Facebook page,
www.facebook.com/st.matthews.ballyfermot/

Parish Centre or Sacristy:

Phone: 626 56 95

Monday to Friday 10.00am to 1.00pm

Divine Mercy Meeting

Wed Evening @ 8.00
in the Prayer Room

Eucharistic Adoration

Mon 10.30 – 9.00
Wed 10.30 – 9.00
Fri 10.30 – 9.00

Weekly Collections

First Collection

Pays our priests, and helps support sick and retired the priests of the Diocese.

Share Collection

Helps towards maintainance and building in the poorer parishes of the Diocese.

Envelope Collection - Family Offering

Main source of income in the Parish, and the only money retained by the parish. It covers all admin and general expenses, church & grounds maintenance, heating, light, repairs, insurance etc. Vital for the upkeep of our parish.

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon 09	Matt 9: 18-26	ST. AUGUSTINE ZHAO RONG AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS 'Courage, my daughter, your faith has restored you to health.'
Tue 10	Matt 9: 32-37	'And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd'
Wed 11	Matt. 19: 27 – 29	ST. BENEDICT, ABBOT AND PATRON OF EUROPE 'What about us?'
Thu 12	Matt. 10: 7 – 15	'You received without charge, give without charge'
Fri 13	Matt 10: 16 – 23	ST. HENRY 'Remember I am sending you out like sheep among wolves; so be cunning as serpents and yet as harmless as doves'.
Sat 14	Matt 10:24-33	ST. CAMILLUS DE LELLIS, PRIEST 'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul'.

Papal Visit
August 25 - 26

Saturday 25
No Mass at 6.30

Sunday 26
No Mass at 9.00,
10,30, 12.00

Mass at 9.30am
ONLY