



# Rumblings from the Bunker

## THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

Do you remember that movie? The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. One of the great 'spaghetti westerns'. I love it. I love it for the shooting. The silence. Of course I love Clint Eastwood, and no, I am not forgetting the music. Unforgettable, thanks to Ennio Morricone. I guess we are so used to the title we could easily gloss over it, but it's a great title for a movie, or a book.

The Good. The Bad. The Ugly. Three distinct categories. Three uncompromising labels or titles. The Good. These are the people we are happy to meet. These are the people whose company we seek. Sometimes you will hear a cynical voice suggest that there are not too many good people around. I am not convinced of this. I actually think there are a lot more good people than we might imagine.

What about the bad? Bad people? I am equally not so convinced about bad people. I mean is there such a thing as a bad person? I think we will all agree that bad things happen. People do bad things. However because some people do bad things does it automatically follow that they are bad people? I am reminded of yet another movie. This one is pretty old, so if you know it, like a good wine, you are of a certain vintage. The movie I am reminded of is, Boy's Town, starring that magnificent actor, Spencer Tracy. It was a great movie about the famous Irish born, Fr. Flanagan and his extraordinary work with disadvantaged children. I am reminded of this because of his famous phrase, 'there's no such thing as a bad boy'.

Flanagan accepted some children were misguided, disturbed, perhaps to the point where they do bad things, however he drew the line at labeling they themselves as bad, or worse still as evil.

In a way this looks after the third category, the ugly. In other words we are saying: ugly deeds, ugly actions yes, but ugly people, no.

As we begin the month of November, which is traditionally the month when we remember the dead I have been asking myself what would it be like if we took a fresh look at people, the dead but also the living. What would it be like if we looked at people afresh. What would it be like if we looked at people with a view to giving them a second chance. What would it be like if we were to take another look at people, this time with the eyes of mercy. How would the Good, the Bad and the Ugly look then?

When we apply this criteria then we can safely say the Good are in Heaven. The Good in this context are those who have gone before us. These are the people who did their best to lead good lives. These are the people who regularly failed. People with good intentions who were not always able to translate these good intentions into actions. Nonetheless these are people who consistently did their best. These are the people who modeled God's love for us. I think of my primary school teacher and the old Canon. Once we move into the realm of God's Kingdom we need to strike a note of caution. We need to be open to being surprised. The Surprise of the Lord. It may well be that we find ourselves surprised at some of those included among the Good, or indeed some of those omitted!

What of those whom we term the Bad? Here we are speaking of people who had a pattern of wickedness in their lives. Selfish people. People who abused power. People who made other people's lives a misery. I think of an old couple I knew at home. He was Victorian in his attitudes, keeping a vice grip on the finances, reducing her to more or less having to make a case for getting her hair done. The oul rascal! Sadly his lovely wife was little more than a glorified slave. Even though she was nearly eighty when he died I am delighted to tell you she got a whole new zest for life after he had gone. It often brings a smile to face when I recall what a ball she had well into her nineties! Of course it's in the Bad that we might well get our biggest shock. It's here the Lord will outdo us. It's in his mercy and compassion we will see his real generosity. We are small minded when it comes to forgiving others. It is here as in other areas that the Lord outdoes us.

And finally what of the Ugly? Discussion of this group can be easily dispensed with. What I mean by that is, that we need spend no time on this group because they do not actually exist. There is no such thing as an ugly person. That's worth repeating, there is no person who warrants the label, Ugly. Neither the very tall or very small, the very thin or the very heavy, none of these require, nor deserve the name Ugly. The only thing that renders us as ugly is sin and thanks be to God this is temporary. The ugliness of sin temporarily disfigures us but only until we are smoothed and beautified by his loving mercy.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Ann Culleton	Evelyn Dooner	Brian Higgins
Kay Kehoe	Lawlor Family	Josephine Long
Thomas Long	Helen Maguire	John McCormack
Joseph Mezza	Patrick Murray	Liam Nolan
Sheila Reilly	Mary Ritchie	John Roche
Margaret Roche	Patrick Ronan	Wiley Family
Wright Family		

**Recent Funerals:** Patrick Kelly Henry Martin

**MASS TIMES**

**St. Matthew's**  
**Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30**  
**Sunday: 09.00, 10.30, 12.00**  
**Convent Mass @ 9.45**  
**Tuesday: 10.00 Prayer Service**

**Weekdays:**  
**Mon, Thur, Fri: 10.00**  
**Wed 7.00pm**

**Weekly Collections**  
**Oct 28**  
**First Collection € 830**  
**Second Collection € 605**  
**Family Offering € 810**

**November**  
**Altar List of the Dead**  
 Envelopes are now available.  
 Please put the completed  
 Altar Lists of the Dead  
 into the box on the altar  
 or leave them in the sacristy.

**BOOK OF THE WEEK**

**The Christian Vision of Life After Death**  
**Brian Grogan SJ**  
**Veritas Dublin 2011 Pp 198**

If you are interested in topics such as heaven, hell and purgatory then this is the book for you. Grogan strikes a very good balance between what could be termed heavy going and that which could lack substance. This is both readable and challenging.

**FAITH MOMENT**

Jesus' death on the cross is both the Paschal sacrifice that accomplishes the definitive redemption of men and women and the sacrifice of the New Covenant that restores humanity to communion with God.

**Miscarriage Association**

Annual Service of Remembrance for above is  
 11th Nov. 2018 @ 3pm in St. Teresa's Church  
 Donore Avenue off South Circular Rd.

**Family Mass**

**Next Sunday 18 Nov @ 10.30**

All Welcome!! Music, Song, Story, and Drama in the Presence of Jesus. This is a really good experience of Mass for families/young children.

**Dates for your Diary**

Sun 2nd Dec Family Mass  
 Sun 9th Dec Family Mass  
 Sun 16th Dec Family Mass  
 Wed 19th Dec Reconciliation Service 7.00pm - No Mass  
 Sat 22nd Dec 6.00pm Carol Service+  
 Blessing of the Crib  
 Mon 24th Dec Special Christmas Family Mass 5.30pm

**RONCALLI PROJECT/COMMUNITY**

This Church Reform initiative led by Fr Joe will have its second meeting **22nd November, 7 - 9pm.**  
 Please spread the word and all welcome

**CONCERT 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

**with special guests**  
**The Flukey Ukes,**  
**Dublin Gospel Choir,**  
**Mary Byrne, Matt Dodd, Donna Dunne**  
**Girls St. Louise's School**  
**Boys St. Lorcan's Palmerstown**  
 In aid of  
**St. Matthew's Church &**  
**The Peter McVerry Trust**  
 For details see notice boards or  
**Phone Ken: 086 236 5288**

**Family Offering Envelopes**

The Family Offering envelopes will be available Sat/Sun in church and in the Parish Centre from Monday to Friday 9.30 to 1.30. Please make sure you take the envelope with your name and address on it.

Thank you for supporting this collection, a very important contribution to the financial upkeep of the parish.

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We have a great team of Eucharistic Ministers, people who give out Holy Communion. This is of course sacred work and a great privilege. We could do with a few more people on this team. A common reaction to this specific invitation is to protest our unworthiness. This is true. None of us are worthy. We can only do it by trusting in God's mercy and see it as a labor of love for Him. Please consider this. Two dates for your diary if you would like to help in this area:

**20th November 7.30 pm Induction/Training and**  
**2nd December, 12 noon Mass, Special Commissioning**  
**Ceremony for old and new Eucharistic Ministers.**

**GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon 12/11	Lk 17: 1-6	<b>St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr</b>	'Increase our faith'
Tue 13/11	Lk 17: 7-10		'We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty'
Wed 14/11	Lk 17: 11-19	<b>St. Laurence O' Toole, Bishop</b>	'Your faith has saved you'
Thu 15/11	Lk 17: 20-25		'For, you must know, the kingdom of God is among you'.
Fri 16/11	Lk 17: 26-37		'As it was in Noah's day, so will it also be in the days of the Son of Man'
Sat 17/11	Lk 18: 1-8	<b>St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious</b>	'he will see justice done to them'