



Rumblings from the Bunker

BLASPHEMY? - A HORSE LONG SINCE BOLTED!

Even the sound of the word has a ring to it. It sounds a serious business, which of course it is. 'Get out of here you blasphemers!!' What is a blasphemer? Somebody who blasphemes? Well yes, but what is that? What does it mean to blaspheme? Blasphemy is to insult or denigrate God or to show contempt of that which is sacred. It was for a long time seen as a serious crime. It still is in certain parts of the world. Here in Ireland on October 26th we have a referendum about our blasphemy law.

We are being asked to consider Article 40.6.1.i of the Constitution. This refers to the common law offense of blasphemous libel, applicable only to Christianity and last prosecuted in 1885. In 1999 it was ruled to be incompatible with the Constitution's guarantee of religious equality.

I remember years ago when I was very innocent and quite naive being a bit, 'put out', as they say, by a Billy Connolly joke about the Pope. Back then, I was protective and defensive of John Paul II. I also remember living with a few people who were upset by Fr Ted. Actually come to think of it, we had a neighbor at home who one night, in blind fury, whilst watching a Dave Allen skit on Confession, put his foot through the television. His wife would not speak to him for a week, not because she was a Dave Allen fan, but because she missed both Coronation Street and Eastenders. I also recall he had to get stitches in his ankle...and oh yes, they had to buy a new tv....As far as I know Dave Allen was not affected by any of this.

In recent times I have found myself a little bit irked by some of Tommy Tiernan's material. I who would consider myself open, tolerant and broad-minded, found myself getting a bit rattled by some of Tom's teasing. I love TT and I think he is very clever. He is undoubtedly also very funny. However, does he cross the line? Does he bring me to the line... and over it? Is there a line? Should there be?

Having said that, guess what? I got over it all real quickly. My irkiness evaporated. I realized I had far more serious things to be upset and worried about but to tell you the truth I got a shock, and this is why I will be eternally grateful to Tommy Tiernan. I got a shock because I suddenly realized that when it comes to 'insulting or denigrating God and/or showing contempt for what is sacred' I am one big hypocrite! Now hypocrisy, as I am sure you know is very widespread. Again, as I am sure you know, it is a disease that particularly affects the 'would be holy' person. Yes people like you and me are very vulnerable to a bad attack of hypocrisy.

With this in mind I decided to ask myself as honestly as I could how am I when it comes to honoring and revering God? How am I with regard to safeguarding and savoring that which is sacred? I decided to concentrate on three areas: me personally, us as Church and finally, us as citizens of the world.

I quickly came up with this: How often do I use the word Jesus but not as a prayer? Do I use the word Jesus liberally in shock, even mock shock, or to emphasize something? Have I forgotten that this name, the Name of Jesus, is precious and in fact in the face of both danger and disease is the most powerful name of all? I also came up with this: what are we as a Church doing when we allow the sacred spaces namely our beautiful churches to be desecrated by constant babble, chewing gum and when we allow the incredibly special sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation to be reduced to a day at the circus or the amusements? Finally I came up with this: on the two greatest commodities in the world, two things we cannot do without, namely air and water, what are we doing to both our seas and waterways and the atmosphere? Is there desecration and blasphemy in both our emissions and in the poison of plastic pollution?

Yes I am afraid with regard to blasphemy it is indeed a horse long since bolted. 'You hypocrite! First remove the plank out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the splinter out of your brother or sister's eye' Matt. 7:5

MASS INTENTIONS

Chrissie Behan	Chrissie Corcoran	Desmond Dillon
Helen Doyle	Frank Kane Jr.	John Keegan
Kitty Moules	Andrew Quinn	Vera Rogers
Liam Sargent	John Ward	Anthony Williams

Recent Funerals

Evelyn Dooner	Thomas Meleady	Elizabeth Whelan
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BOOK OF THE WEEK

WISDOM AT THE CROSSROADS

**The Life and Thought of Michael Paul Gallagher SJ
Thomas G. Casey SJ**

Many of you will be familiar with the thoughts and writings of Michael Paul Gallagher. If you are interested in the area of faith, how it works, exactly what is it, and most importantly how to deepen it, then it's worth reading this modest book. I say modest more in terms of size than quality. This is a well written introduction to the life and thought of the much loved Jesuit who died in 2015. Gallagher was a theologian, author and editor and his work is worthy of study and prayerful reflection.

FAITH MOMENT

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is the living presence of God in our lives promised by Jesus. The Holy Spirit strengthens our Christian witness so we may become the living reflections of Christ in the world. And so the Church prays, 'Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest, and in our souls take up thy rest. Come with thy grace and heavenly aid, to fill the hearts that thou hast made.'

**Table Quiz in Aid of St. Matthew's
Come along and have a bit of fun**

Thursday 15th Nov @ 7.30 In St. Matthew's

ANNUAL MASS

FOR THE DEAD

**THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
AT 7.30 PM**

St. Vincent De Paul

**Monthly Church Gate Collection
takes place after all the Masses
next weekend**

MASS TIMES

St. Matthew's

**Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30
Sunday: 09.00,10.30,12.00
Convent Mass @ 9.45**

Weekdays:

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

Tuesday:10.00 Prayer Service

Weekly Collections

	Oct 7
First Collection	€ 1040
Second Collection	€ 580
Family Offering	€ 930

Church Gate Collection
This Week
20/21 October
Ethiopia School Project

CONCERT 30th 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**

NOTE FROM FR JOE. Re: Irish Catholic

In recent times I have been very taken by the Irish Catholic, which has grown into an excellent Catholic Newspaper. It is of exceptional value. Apart from giving a great sense of the Catholic world it also has much by way of features and articles that will both inspire and challenge. There is no weekly religious publication that rivals it. In the next week or so I am going to place my personal order and invite parishioners to do the same. This way it will be delivered to us on a Friday and can be collected at Mass on Sunday. I hope you might consider ordering it through St. Matthews.

St. Matthew's

**We are looking for unwanted gifts
to use as raffle prizes.**

Family Mass This Sunday 21 Oct @ 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.

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon 22/10	Lk 12: 13 – 21	SAINT JOHN PAUL II, POPE' So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself in the sight of God'
Tue 23/10	Lk 12: 35 – 38	'Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes'
Wed 24/10	Lk 12: 39 – 48	'I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns'
Thu 25/10	Lk 12: 49 – 53	'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already'.
Fri 26/10	Lk 12: 54 – 59	'How is it you do not know how to interpret these times?'
Sat 27/10	Lk 13: 1 – 9	'Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'