



Rumblings from the Bunker

WHERE DO YOU LOOK FOR JESUS?

(Just a series of thoughts)

Where do you look for Jesus? Or do you?

I have recently been on pilgrimage and met a lot of people who are looking for Jesus.

Actually I often meet people who are looking for Jesus.....now, having said that I am wondering is that correct? It is an interesting question, do we actively look for Jesus? Do we seek? Do we knock?

It seems that if we do not seek, we will not find. If we do not knock, the door will remain shut.

Oftentimes we are looking for peace, for success, for health....simply for a favor. This does not necessarily mean we are looking for Jesus. To be more direct about it in this scenario we are not so much seeking Jesus as seeking self or at least seeking something for the self.

I mean we would probably agree we would like to feel closer to God. Or maybe we would be more comfortable with saying we would like to feel God's presence.

Now if this is true, is it not obvious that a way of getting closer to God, or feeling his presence in a more real way, is to get closer to Jesus?

Now, if we accept that then a good question might be: if we want to get closer to Jesus, where would we find him?

Where would you start? Many people would say, start in the Bible. Read the Gospels. Perhaps some would say begin in prayer. All these suggestions are of course excellent and very good things to do in their own right.

However I would like to make another suggestion about Jesus. I think we spend a lot of time looking over there in the beyond, somewhere away out there...and is this not our fundamental mistake? Is not the extraordinary thing about Jesus that he is much closer than we think? Is it not that Jesus is so close that we miss him? Is he not under our very noses? Is not the truth of the matter that Jesus is in the Mess. Maybe we should make that a little more specific: Is it not that Jesus is in OUR mess?

This could be seen as a very sweeping statement and deserves a little bit of developing. What does it mean to say Jesus is part of our Mess? Let's say it in big words first. Let's say it theologically first.

When God became one of us, he does so in Jesus. God becomes one of us in Jesus. We are of course speaking about the Incarnation. God made flesh. Clearly in the Divine Plan it was decided that God's only begotten Son, Jesus was not going to be born into cosy middle or upper class, four poster bed with proverbial silver spoon in the mouth. Yes the reality of Jesus is a long way from that. But readers of the rumblings will know we have said this before or something fairly close to this.

Today though I would like to push it a little bit further. Let me take three simple examples that could easily happen to any of us in our lives: What is it like to be under threat? What is it like to feel misunderstood? And finally, what is it like to feel totally abandoned? Now as I am sure you will agree these three things are regular enough occurrences. They may not be evident in very large dramatic ways and yet they are there.

We are under threat of illness, failure, bad news, and accident. Jesus was under threat from before he was born and at every juncture of his life. Do we not often get frustrated especially when we feel misunderstood? Jesus is constantly misunderstood. Regularly confused with being an earthly king or rebel leader his oft repeated sigh is, 'and still you do not understand'. As for feeling abandoned, whilst we know different now because we have the grace of both Ascension and Pentecost, did it not appear that Calvary was the ultimate failure?

No, we do not have to look too far for Jesus....he is right here beside us...in our mess.

MASS INTENTIONS

Elizabeth Aherne	Maurice Aherne	Mark Byrne
James Cody	Gary Conway	Peter Doyle
George Green	Jane Green	Gosia Jankovski
Elizabeth Kearney	Nancy Last	Thomas Last
Tommy Last	Bridget Lynch	Christy Nugent
Lil Nugent	Paddy Nugent	Bridget O'Leary
Lawrence Quinn	Rita Quinn	

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

Feast of All Saints Thursday Nov 1
Vigil Mass: Wednesday 31 Oct: 6.30pm
Thursday Nov 1: 10.30 only

BOOK OF THE WEEK

**A GRIEF OBSERVED
C S LEWIS**

Faber and Faber. London. 1961. Pp 64

Once again as we come to the month of November I once again remind us all, including myself, of this classic gem. Short, but very powerful, the man who gave us Narnia and indeed the Screwtape Letters writes about the death of his wife. Never maudlin or self pitying, thousands have received solace from his attempt to 'argue' through grief.

Weekly Collections

	Oct 14
First Collection	€ 815
Second Collection	€ 765
Family Offering	€ 720

FAITH MOMENT

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick strengthens the baptized when they experience grave illness or old age. It 'is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time to receive this sacrament has already arrived'.

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

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

Dates for your Diary

Sun	18th	Nov	Family Mass
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

ANNUAL MASS

FOR THE DEAD

THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
AT 7.30 PM

St. Matthew's

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

St. Vincent De Paul
Monthly Church Gate Collection
takes place after all the Masses
this weekend

Eucharistic Ministers

We need new Eucharistic Ministers. If interested, please leave your name in the Sacristy or call to the office in the Parish Centre (626 56 95)

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	29/10	Lk 13: 10 - 17	'When he said this, all his adversaries were covered with confusion'
Tue	30/10	Lk 13: 18 - 21	'What is the kingdom of God like?'
Wed	31/10	Lk 13: 22 - 30	'And many from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the Feast in the Kingdom of God'
Thu	01/11	Mt 5: 1 - 12	ALL SAINTS DAY 'Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven'
Fri	02/11	Mt 15: 33 - 39, 16: 1 - 6	THE COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED 'It is an evil and unfaithful generation that asks for a sign'
Sat	03/11	Lk 14:1; 7 - 11	ST. MALACHY, BISHOP 'For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the person who humbles himself will be exalted'