



Last Ever Rumbblings from the Bunker

OUL RONCALLI WAS BEHIND IT ALL ALONG....

Though I did not always see it, and I certainly was not always thankful for it, I have realized with the passing years that I was blessed in my parents, and indeed in their parents, my grandparents. Yes in all six of these special people I have much to be thankful for. With the exception of Frank McDonald, my Dad's father, I had all of them long enough, to various degrees, to make a difference to my life. Frank McDonald died seven weeks before I was born. However his influence on me is more than residual, funneled into my young life through his wife, my granny, and his children, especially my Dad, his youngest child, Joe. Though not without their flaws and certainly their idiosyncrasies they taught me a lot of goodness and they certainly shaped my sense of family and fun, and though they would have varying degrees of discomfort with my saying so, they also influenced my faith.

That I am writing this, the last of my 'rumbblings from the bunker,' from Lourdes, after a very rewarding pilgrimage, is no accident. I have managed to step into the footsteps of Bernadette Soubirous this week and not for the first time marveled at how under appreciated she is, and in turn how substantial a signpost she is, on the pathway to holiness, to which we are all called. Underneath all the devotions and duties, the Holy Spirit outdone herself, as always, in the sacred dance she swirled in the depths of my soul and no doubt that of others. This in turn led me to reflect on the whispering, or the nudging of the Holy Spirit, which has been in my life as long as I can remember. These movements of the Spirit have led me to places and people and indeed events that have fundamentally shaped me and how I am in the world.

In the tiny scullery in our house on the Falls Road, the two ornamental plates on the wall, presented John F Kennedy and his wife Jackie and over a little on the same wall, Pope John XXIII. I was born on September 1st, (is that today, pray for me, my first day in my new parish), 1961, therefore I got to look at them for two years as a toddler before I started to hear, more likely overhear, that they were both dead. Who knows what precisely I managed to take in over those first three or four years. What I remember is more of the broad strokes of life back then. At some point I became aware of danger, of threat, of trouble in the streets. Somewhere it began to dawn on me there was an 'us and them'. Even though my parents did not feed it, sectarianism and division were gradually boiling over into what was to become a long bloody conflict which would be known as 'The Troubles'. The seeds of this were in persistent and gross injustice. At some point I soaked in my young parents' sadness at the cruel assassination of the bright Irish Catholic President Kennedy.

The man on the other ornamental plate had no tie, no wife - actually looked a bit strange. He wore unusual clothes, he was big, his ears looked big to me...but he was smiling. When he was spoken of, whilst I knew his death was not a tragedy in the way the President's was, I knew people were sad. They called him the 'Good Pope' and 'Good Pope John.' Strange as it may seem it feels like he has always been on the edge of my life. Always a benign presence it is as it were that he is always there. Peeping in on me. Smiling. It seems now that I begin the next chapter of my life that he seems exercised to shuffle in a bit closer. I'll keep you posted.

J MC DONALD. 27.08.19

MASS INTENTIONS

Mary Behan	Jem Byrne	Katy Darcy
Paddy Freer	Kathleen Gaff	Michael Gaff
Mary Hawkins	Christine Keating	Rory Keating
Andy Lawlor	Lily Lawlor	Mary O'Connor
Willie Toomey		

MASS TIMES

Weekends	Weekdays:
Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30	Mon, Thur, Fri: 10.00
Sunday: 09.00,10.30,12.00	Wed: 7.00
Tue: Morning Prayer 10.00	

BOOK OF THE WEEK

**BERNADETTE OF LOURDES,
Pilgrimage into the heart of Jesus**

**Adam Simon, (Illustrations by Josephine Simon)
ABCEJ PUBLISHING Great Britain 2018 Pp 107**

I very nearly missed this. I thought it was just another one of the many devotional books on Lourdes. Which of course have their place. This is not the case. It is a beautifully laid out text supplemented by fresh and memorable illustrations from the author's sister in law. This book presents the story of Lourdes as a pilgrimage into the heart of Jesus. I loved it.

**Concert in Aid of:
The Hospice Harold's Cross
and a Donation to St. Matthew's
In St. Matthew's Church
Friday 22nd November
@ 8.00pm: Tickets €15
For more information contact
Ken @ 0862365288**

RONCALLI COMMUNITY

The next meeting of the Roncalli Community will take place on
Friday October 11th at 7 pm
in the Parochial House, Main St, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.

ALL WELCOME.

FAITH MOMENT

In the first of the Beatitudes, Jesus speaks of poverty of spirit as the way to inherit the Kingdom of God. To grow in poverty of spirit requires detachment from material goods and wealth. Our desire should be for spiritual riches that are freely and abundantly given by God.

There is a new website for the Roncalli Community presently under construction. Please be patient as at present it is just bare bones and will take time. Do keep an eye on it.

THE ADDRESS IS: roncalli.community

NO MORE RUMBLINGS

For those of you that enjoyed the 'rumblings' thanks for your comments over the years. A number of people have asked about future scribblings. Whilst today sees the end of the 'rumblings from the bunker' do keep an eye on the Roncalli website. It's early days for this as it is presently still under construction. You can access it at:

roncalli.community

**Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine
Saturday September 14 2019**
Bus Leaving St. Matthew's @ 8.00am
€20 per person (Bus Only)
One Stop for Meal/Refreshments each way
Book in **Parish Centre** after Weekday Masses or
Phone 6265695 (10.00am to 1.00pm weekdays)

**Be Part of Irelands
Biggest Coffee Weekend**

In aid of the Hospice, Harold's Cross
Coffee/Tea/ Cake Morning
After all the Masses Sat – Sun 14/15th Sept
in the Parish Centre
Donations of bought or baked cakes, scones etc.
would be very welcome

A FINAL WORD FROM FR. JOE

By the time you read this I will have taken up my new position in St. Patrick's and St. Brigid's, Celbridge and Straffan. I would like you to know that I leave St. Matthew's with a heavy heart. I realize that the past seven years will not be repeated. They constitute a very special time in my life, not least of all because I was Parish Priest here in St. Matthew's. The group of people who make up what I call the faith community of St. Matthew, namely you, have been the reason for my contentment as a man, and deep joy as a priest. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for all that you have been to me in these years as we experienced together both the sunshine and the rain. Let's remember each other in prayer.

**Crosscare
Special Collection
This Weekend**

It replaces the Share Collection.
Crosscare helps the homeless, looks to the needs of young people and promotes the development of community driven services.

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon 02/09	Lk 4: 16-30	'This is Joseph's son, surely?'
Tue 03/09	Lk 4: 31-37	ST. GREGORY THE GREAT, Pope, Doctor 'Be quiet, come out of him!'
Wed 04/09	Lk 4: 38-44	'And she immediately got up and began to wait on them.'
Thu 05/09	Lk 5: 1-11	'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.'
Fri 06/09	Lk 5: 33-39	'But the time will come, the time for the bridegroom to be taken away from them; that will be the time when they will fast.'
Sat 07/09	Lk 6: 1-5	'The Son of Man is master of the sabbath.'