



# Rumblings from the Bunker

## MY UN-LIVED LIVES!

Did you ever consider your un-lived life, or lives? If things had been different what might you be doing? Where might you be living? With whom? It's an interesting question. Once you start to reflect on your unrealized potential it brings us in touch with all those who formed us for good or for ill. This type of reflection can tap us into a residual resentment, or at least lack of acceptance, or alternatively to a gracious acceptance that brings us deep peace and gratitude. It's good to remember from the outset that everyone has an un-lived life. Even in the most fulfilling life there is the pain of choice and with it the realization that we can only do so much.

The first of my un-lived lives is a political one. The general draw back then, when I was a teenager, was to politics, maybe social work, and even then to teaching. Medicine was some vague peripheral notion which, as a consequence of both lack of ability and lack of application, never even taxied down the runway never mind got off the ground. Teaching won out, albeit in the context of religious vocation, the latter which I could not have foreseen.

To what degree my appetite for politics was shaped by my environment and to what degree it was nurtured by a particularly good teacher and subsequent reading I am not sure. The environment, of course, was politically highly charged. The years from I was nine to nineteen were bookended by the arrival of the British army into Northern Ireland and the deaths of the ten Hunger Strikers. Despite the provocative utterances of Dr. Paisley and Mrs Thatcher and appalling atrocities such as Bloody Sunday, largely through having very fine parents and God's grace, I stopped short of signing up for the IRA. Having said that, even these combined benign influences could not arrest my recurring teenage fantasy to blow up Number Ten, Downing Street. In reality this was never going to happen given my fear that, despite my taking every precaution, someone might get hurt.

I guess even then I was sliding more towards Jesus than any of the other influences competing for my adulation and imitation. These influences included: Che Guevara, Bobby Sands, Ronald Reagan, Charles Haughey, Bernadette Devlin, Katharine Hepburn and Golda Meir. Some, though not all, of these were gradually replaced in my gallery of heroes with Thomas Merton, Teresa of Calcutta, Edmund Rice, Henri Nouwen, Thomas Hardy, the Bronte sisters, Neil Young, Kris Kristofferson, Joni Mitchell and Carole King. Today it would be hard to trump, Angelo Roncalli, Pope John XXIII, as my ultimate hero. Some of my minor un-lived lives include: members of the Cistercians, Christian Brother leadership, literary and political life.

I think when we reflect on those who helped form us we must not neglect family members, close neighbors, teachers, priests. I recall my grandparents and I am conscious of the debt of gratitude I owe them.

In another un-lived life I am married....thirty years now. I am still as crazy about her as when I first met her. Seven children later I love the life we have. I love our house, old, filled with character, a house that we, mainly her, my Michelle, have made into a home. The few skirmishes we have had were very short lived mainly because I could not bear even the slightest, most temporary of estrangements. I love our dogs, the craziest, cheekiest feisty collection of boxers and parson jacks as you'll ever meet. I tolerate the cats mainly because I know Michelle loves them....Of course I am not married, nor have I children, and whatever about the father they missed, perhaps from the point of view of life partner, maybe someone had a narrow escape. I guess that is just a clumsy way of saying that I think I would have made a better father than husband.

What's going on here? Is this some multiple personality manifestation, or a dressed up collection of 'if onlys'? What happens for you when you reflect on your life like this? Where does such imagining bring you? Will you come the next step with me and move from recrimination to thanksgiving?

Yes, for whatever I have sacrificed, whatever my loss, whatever my sadness, I give God thanks for the privilege to serve as priest. I give God thanks for all the opportunities, most especially for being able to explore a deep personal relationship with Jesus of Nazareth. I give him thanks for my rich life. Yes, I am grateful for joy.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Dermot Dooley	Arthur Jacob	Brian James
Patrick Kearney	Thomas Mills	Ann O'Connor
Catriona O'Connor	Monica O'Connor	Pascal O'Connor
Patrick O'Connor	Rose O'Connor	Thomas O'Connor
O'Connor Family	Tony Phelan	David Rock
Brigid Smith	Rosaleen Smith	

**Recent Funerals**  
Nancy Kavanagh

**MASS TIMES**

<b>Weekends</b>	<b>Weekdays:</b>
<b>Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30</b>	<b>Mon, Thur, Fri: 10.00</b>
<b>Sunday: 09.00,10.30,12.00</b>	<b>Wed: 7.00pm</b>
<b>Tuesday: Prayer Service 10.00</b>	

**St. Vincent De Paul**  
Annual Clothing Appeal  
For Second-Hand Clothing

**Sunflower Days Hospice**  
Church Gate Collection 8/9 June

**Distribution of Bags**  
This Weekend 1/2 June

**Cemetery Masses:**  
Palmerstown June 16 @ 3:00pm  
Glasnevin June 30 @ 3:00pm  
Newlands July 14 @ 3:00pm

**Collection of Bags**  
Weekend June 8/9

**WELCOME TO FR. ADRIAN EGAN CSsR**

On behalf of all of us here in the faith community of St. Matthew's we extend a warm welcome to Fr Adrian Egan the new Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Assumption. We are indeed greatly blessed to be joined here in Ballyfermot by such a gifted, energetic committed Redemptorist priest. We pray that this is the beginning of a happy and fulfilling chapter in his life.

**BOOK OF THE WEEK**

**DRAWN INTO THE MYSTERY OF JESUS  
THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN  
JEAN VANIER**

Darton, Longman and Todd London. 2004. Pp 360.

I suppose I am nudged back to this beautiful text given the recent death of it's much loved author.

This is one of those books that will need to be both read and prayed. Not only do we have the depth and beauty of the fourth gospel but we have a prayerful reflective companion to it. This is all the more significant given the inspiring life of Vanier himself. A lovely book that probably lends itself more to a periodic dipping into, than a straight sustained reading.

**FAREWELL TO FR. JUSTIN AND DEACON YANBO**

We are sad that the time to say goodbye to Fr Justin and Deacon Yanbo is almost upon us. Fr Justin's last day with us is Pentecost Sunday, June 9th. Fr Justin has been a gentle, prayerful and most obliging presence among us. We will miss you very much Justin. Deacon Yanbo will be ordained by the Archbishop on Sunday 16th June in Huntstown. The newly ordained 'Fr Yanbo' will return to St. Matthew's to celebrate his First Mass, 7.30 pm on Monday 17th June.

**You are all invited to attend this First Mass on 17th June and receive the First Blessing.** Meanwhile please keep Yanbo in your prayers as he prepares for this very special day.

**Sisters From St. Elizabeth Convent Belarus**

will visit St. Matthew's on 6th June after 10.00am Mass. They sell all kinds of religious articles to help pay for the upkeep of their orphanages and hospitals in Belarus.

**Parishes Walking Together**

**Annual Walk Sunday June 9 @ 1.30pm**

Join us for a pilgrim walk of the five parishes in our cluster as we journey together on this 'mini-camino' of approx. 9 kms. **Everyone is welcome**

**Anam Cara**

Anam Cara South Dublin, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on Monday 10th June at 7.20pm in the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, Dublin 24. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Please note there are no Events in July or August. Please contact us on [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie) or 085 2888888

**SPECIAL DAY OF CELEBRATION  
FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION GIRLS AND BOYS**

The girls and boys who have just made First Holy Communion are invited to a special day of thanksgiving on Sunday 23rd June, Corpus Christi. Mass, barbecue, face painting, bouncy castle. More details to follow.

**SPECIAL VISITORS**

We are delighted that Kilinney Gospel Choir will be singing at the 6.30 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday July 6th here in St. Matthew's. We are looking forward very much to this occasion.

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

**Tuesday 20th August - Tuesday 27th August<sup>4</sup>**

4-Star Hotel Solitude

**7 Nights Full Board €800**

Single room supplement €252 (subject to availability).

Accompanied by Spiritual Director

Fr. Joe McDonald, St. Matthew's

**PLEASE NOTE IT IS POSSIBLE**

**TO PAY THE COST BY INSTALLMENTS**

Contact Eddie Teeling @ 0868063625

**GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon	03/06	<b>Jn 16: 29-33</b>	<b>ST. KEVIN, ABBOT</b> 'Do you believe at last?'
Tue	04/06	<b>Jn 17: 1-11</b>	<b>ST. CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS</b> 'I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.'
Wed	05/06	<b>Jn 17: 11-19</b>	<b>ST. BONIFACE, BISHOP AND MARTYR</b> 'They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.'
Thu	06/06	<b>Jn 17: 20-26</b>	'Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.'
Fri	07/06	<b>Jn 21: 15-19</b>	'In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me'.
Sat	08/06	<b>Jn 21: 20-25</b>	'This disciple is the one who vouches for these things and has written them down, and we know that his testimony is true.'