



Rumblings from the Bunker

DON'T MISS THIS!!

On Monday, yes this Monday, March 4th, something is happening here in St. Matthew's which I genuinely believe you will regret missing. That is, if you do, and I hope you won't. Hence this message.

That's why I want to alert you to it. It's one of those things that you will hear people talking about and no doubt find yourself saying 'I should have' or 'why did nobody tell me about it?'

I am speaking of course about our annual Novena of Grace. Yes this is tried and tested and like all 'annuals' will have its range from memorable to average to poor enough.

The reason I have decided to address it in the rumblings is that this year I believe it will be particularly good. We are very blessed this year in our speaker, Fr Eamonn Mulcahy CSSp.

This is a very old novena. It has a history here in Dublin going back a few hundred years and is well established here in St. Matthew's for many years. There's a few things I like about it.

As someone with a great love of Ignatius and the Society of Jesus I am particularly thrilled that the backdrop to this beautiful novena is found in the early life of the Jesuits. Indeed the wonderful saint through whose intercession we pray this novena, was one of a handful of close companions of Ignatius Loyola, St. Francis Xavier. This young saint had his share of suffering but by any account seems to have been on fire with love for the Lord. He essentially spent himself without measure as a tireless missionary of the gospel. This, for me, makes our novena exciting.

The second thing I love about these days of novena here in St. Matthew's is the people who will actually come to the novena. In other words I look forward to the faith community of St. Matthew gathering for this special time of prayer. People come with their needs, their sickness, their broken ness. I am always moved by their faith, their trust in the Lord. Every year I am conscious that our novena of grace is just that, a time of God's grace, a time of God's special help in our lives.

As I have already said, this year will be special because of the priest who will preach our novena. To have Eamonn Mulcahy lead our Novena of Grace is indeed a privilege. He has a number of things that stand out for me which contribute to my sense that we are in for a very powerful experience. Eamonn has a great sense of the world, a global view, born out of extensive travel and service especially in areas of poverty. Eamonn like Francis Xavier is a missionary. He enjoys telling people about Jesus and the Good News that is the gospel. He is a gifted communicator and it is very obvious he lives what he preaches.

Let us ask the Lord to bless us in a special way in these days. May the Lord bless all who take part in this novena. May he bless Fr Eamonn and use him as his instrument during the novena. May the Lord shower his blessings on the Faith Community of St. Matthew. Amen.

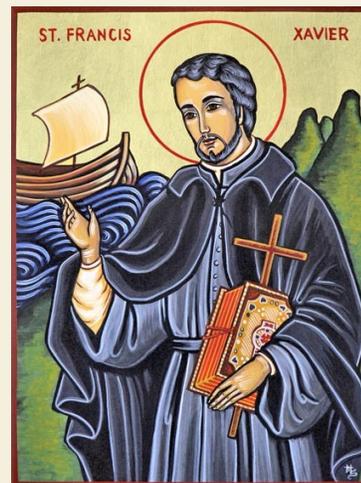
MASS INTENTIONS

Ann Cox	Christina Canning	Michael Cummins
Paddy Dunne	Samuel Eastwood	Joseph Fisher
Liam McCabe	Elizabeth McCormack	Eileen McHale
Patrick McHale	Bridget McKeon	John McKeon
Sean O'Callaghan	Philomena O'Reilly	

Recent Funerals

Rita Corcoran John Jordan

MASS TIMES



**Novena of Grace
March 4 - 12**

**Fr. Eamonn Mulcahy CSSp
Mass Times**

Mon 4: 10.00 and 7.00 Fr. Justin
Tue Wed Thurs Fri:
 10.00 and 7.00 Fr. Eamonn
Sat 9 : 10.00 and 6.30 Fr. Eamonn
Sun 10: 12.00 only Fr. Eamonn
Mon 11: 10.00 and 7.00 Fr. Eamonn
Tue 12 : 10.00 and 7.00 Fr. Eamonn

FAITH MOMENT

We believe that Christ Jesus ascended into heaven and will return again in glory.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

**THE ONLY NECESSARY THING
HENRI J M NOUWEN
CROSSROAD NEW YORK 1999. Pp 224**

This is a very special and inspiring collection of Henri Nouwen's best writings on prayer and meditation. In his own words 'prayer is the bridge between my unconscious and conscious life. Prayer connects my mind with my heart, my will with my passions, my brain with my belly. Prayer is the divine instrument of my wholeness, unity and inner peace'. From my point of view it's Nouwen and Merton as the top two modern guides on prayer and the spiritual life.



Please take a Trocaire Box for Lent.

Boxes available at the Church doors.

A SPECIAL INVITATION

TO ALL WHO WORSHIP IN ST. MATTHEW'S

I would like you to consider joining me and a group of pilgrims in Lourdes this summer. It is a very special time. As we journey along, we chat, have fun, enjoy each other's company, and yes we pray. We pray for people we know and love especially those who are sick. Yes we also pray for ourselves. We do all this in the company of Bernadette and of course Our Lady who always brings us closer to Jesus. So my friends it will be a very special week

Tuesday 20th August - Tuesday 27th August.
 4 Star Hotel Solitude. 7 nights Full Board. €800, single room supplement €252 (subject to availability).

PLEASE NOTE IT IS POSSIBLE TO PAY THE COST BY INSTALLMENTS

For more information: contact Eddie Teeling 0868063625

Church Collections

	17 Feb
1st Collection	855
Accord Collection	850
Family Offering	825

**Family Mass
Next Sunday
@ 10.30**

**Parish Centre or Sacristy:
Phone: 626 56 95
Monday to Friday 10.00am to 1.00pm**

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon 04/03	Mk 10: 17-27	'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God'
Tue 05/03	Mk 10: 28-31	'What about us? We have left everything and followed you.'
Wed 06/03	Mt. 6: 1-6, 16-18	ASH WEDNESDAY 'But when you pray, go to your private room and when you have shut your door pray to your Father who is in that secret place'
Thu 07/03	Lk 9: 22-25	'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me'.
Fri 08/03	Mt 9: 14-15	'Why is it that we and the Pharisees fast and your disciples do not?'
Sat 09/03	Lk 5: 27-32	'In his honor Levi held a great reception in his house, and with them at table was a large gathering of tax collectors and others'.