



# Rumblings from the Bunker

## BLOOD

**'I see his blood upon the rose  
And in the stars the glory of his eyes,  
His body gleams amid eternal snows,  
His tears fall from the skies...'**

(Joseph Mary Plunkett)

Most of us will remember this beautiful poem, The Presence of God, from our childhood. It is a memorable comment on God's magnificence infusing all creation. Along with God's beauty there is of course the powerful reference to blood, God's blood. It is interesting to ask ourselves when did we first encounter blood. Perhaps our own blood, perhaps the blood of another. Blood is our life force. It is basic. It is core. It is as central to us as breath and water.

When did you first encounter blood? Was it your own blood, oozing out of your cut knee? Was it your classmates unexpected nose bleed? Was it a story of heroes in battle and the ensuing bloodshed? Was it a horror movie with a blood sucking vampire? Were you inspired by the musical Blood Brothers? Have you a blood brother, a blood sister?

Maybe it was later on. Maybe somebody said to you 'it's in your blood!'

Did they mean that as a compliment or reprimand?

Did they mean it's in your blood, in your nature, in your genes, in your make up....

It's in your blood to speak up for yourself.....to be moody.....to see the humor in everything.....to argue.....

Did you ever donate blood? Do you realize that blood donations are very important?

Do you realize that certain types of blood, perhaps yours, is in bigger demand than others?

Are you aware that blood is in greater demand at certain times of year?

Do you know your blood type?

Do you know the association between blood transfusion and the pelican?

Did you know that in medieval Europe, it was believed that whenever food grew scarce, mother pelicans would intentionally stab themselves on the breast with their beaks and then use the blood to feed their chicks?

Our blood can have too much sugar, too much cholesterol, our blood can have a disorder.

Our blood pressure is important, too high and too low.

What about bloodshed? The blood of the martyrs. The blood of the Irish Martyrs.

Would you give your life for a cause? For Irish Freedom?

Would you spill your blood for your faith? For your family?

Would you put yourself in danger to defend your children?

Finally what of what we call the precious blood? The blood of the Lamb.

The body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ...

'In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples saying, Take this, all of you, and drink from it. For this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me...'

Why do we refer to the 'precious' blood? Is not all blood precious? Yes but if it's the blood of the Son of God. If it's the blood of the Saviour of the world. If it's divine blood shed, spilt, poured out for you, for me. Out of love. Because we are loved. Loved beyond measure.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Jesse Fitzpatrick Bridget Higgins Mary Smyth

**Recent Funerals:**

Margaret Kenna Cara Stokes

**FAITH MOMENT**

The Catholic Church defends the sanctity of human life as a gift from God. Human life is sacred because it originates in God's creative love. God alone is the Creator of Life from its beginning to its end; to claim the right to destroy human life is to contradict the sacred origin and nature of all human life.

**BOOK OF THE WEEK**

**THE COLDEST NIGHT**  
**A family's experience of suicide**  
**CAROL ANNE MILTON**

**VERITAS DUBLIN 2009 Pp 127**

This is a raw, difficult challenging but beautiful book. It is the story of a mother's loss of her son through suicide. This is how she herself describes the journey:

'For me there are two distinct lives: my life prior to the death of my son, and the radically changed life that my family and I had to learn to live following his death by suicide.'

I wish this book was not as necessary and as relevant as it remains in our community today.



**Nurture Africa**  
**Church Gate Collection**  
**Next Weekend after all the Masses**

Founded in 2003 by Irishman Brian Iredale, Nurture Africa (formerly A-Z Children's Charity) focused upon providing healthcare and education to the most vulnerable children within the communities within with the organisation operated. Nurture Africa was registered as an International NGO in 2005 and is supported by Irish Aid. Nurture Africa provides access to healthcare (within its own purpose built health centre), education, economic empowerment and child rights projects. Today in Uganda, Nurture Africa is sustaining the employment over 60 Ugandan staff members across all departments.

**MASS TIMES**

**Weekends**

**Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30**

**Sunday: 09.00,10.30,12.00**

**Weekdays:**

**Mon, Thur, Fri: 10.00**

**Tuesday: No Prayer Service until September**

**No Mass on Wednesday evenings during the month of July**

**Society of African Missions (SMA)**

An SMA priest will visit the parish on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th July to speak at all the masses about Mission Awareness and the work of the SMA Fathers.

**Concert in Aid of 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

**Parish Centre or Sacristy:**

**Phone: 626 56 95**

**Monday to Friday**

**10.00am to 1.00pm**

**MALE (Ireland)**

**Men As Learners And Elders**

The brainchild of Fr Richard Rohr, MALE has been gaining some momentum in this part of the world of late. You can check out our Irish website at <http://www.malejourney.ie>.

From 24-28 July 2019, a significant gathering of men will converge in Kiltegan, Co Wicklow, for what has come to be known as the Men's Rites of Passage. "What on earth is that all about?" I hear you ask. The men's Rites of Passage (MROP) is a five-day, deeply soulful and experiential programme, devised mainly by the U.S. author, spiritual writer, preacher and Franciscan friar, Fr Richard Rohr, OFM, back in 2004, that builds on the classic patterns of male initiation through profound rituals and teachings. Each day includes major teachings from the Wisdom Traditions central to masculine spirituality, quiet time for reflection and opportunities to share stories and experiences with other men in the context of small groups.

How about you? If you are a man and would like to take a significant step along the journey to being a more authentic man, why not go to the website

**<http://www.malejourney.ie>**

where you can download the application form?  
 You won't regret it.

**GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon	15/07	<b>Mt 10: 34 - 11:1</b>	<b>ST. BONAVENTURE, BISHOP</b> 'It is not peace I have come to bring but a sword'.
Tue	16/07	<b>Mt 12: 46 – 50</b>	<b>OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL</b> 'Who is my mother?'
Wed	17/07	<b>Mt 11: 25 – 27</b>	'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children'.
Thu	18/07	<b>Mt 11: 28 – 30</b>	'Come to me, all you who labor and are overburdened, and I will give you rest'.
Fri	19/07	<b>Mt 12: 1 – 8</b>	'Now here, I tell you, is something greater than the Temple'.
Sat	20/07	<b>Mt 12: 14 - 21</b>	'At this the Pharisees went out and began to plot against him, discussing how to destroy him'.