



# Rumblings from the Bunker

## IS PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS OLD HAT?

There was a time when we all prayed for vocations. It was often billed just like that. 'Let us pray for vocations'.... sometimes it went further and said 'Let us pray for vocations to the priesthood'. Indeed now and again we said, 'Let us pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.'

We live in a very different world to the world we often recited those prayers in. We live in a different church. There are not so many vocations to priesthood and religious life at least not in this part of the world. I wonder why this is the case. Maybe we are not praying hard enough. Maybe the Lord feels we have enough priests. Maybe we don't need as many priests. Maybe we have too many Masses. Maybe we are massed out. The Mass grew out of the Passover. The Passover was an annual feast. Maybe a really good properly prepared, even properly celebrated Mass once every couple of months would be much more theologically and spiritually nourishing.

What is your own explanation of why, even with all our praying, we are getting so few vocations?

For what it's worth here's my explanation.

I believe, as always, the Lord continues to call women and men to serve him, and all God's people, in Ministry. However as sure as the Lord calls, the problem lies not with the Lord but with us. The problem is not the call but the invitation. The Lord calls. We invite. I believe the issue is with us and how we invite. Actually a pertinent question might be to check, do we invite? Like when was the last time you said to a girl or boy, woman or man, 'did you ever think of serving the Lord?' Why might we not issue such an invitation?

I would like, if I may, to sharpen my answer, a little. I think at the heart of the explanation as to why at this moment, in this part of the world, we are not 'getting vocations', lies a painful truth. It is painful because it is a comment on us and indeed on how we are presenting the message we have been entrusted with.

I think the best understanding of the worsening lack of vocations is to be understood as a pruning. This is in my view a time of divine pruning. I think the Lord is asking us to look carefully at what we are inviting people to be part of. What are we inviting people into?

If we are inviting people to wear the sandals of servant, of pilgrim then they will surely come?

If however we are asking people to put on boots to frighten or coerce then they will not come. Nor should they. If it's an invitation to preach fear, 'more of the same', an invitation to enable 'business as usual', then I think the Holy Spirit has other plans.

It strikes me that this is a very important question to ask, and there are two parts to it

**a) What are you asking people to become part of, I mean as a way of life?**

**b) What are you asking people to preach, to represent, to model, to proclaim?**

I firmly believe if we get our act together we will be blessed with an abundance of vocations. There will be no shortage of women and men to bring the real message of Jesus of Nazareth. The message of love and joy. The message of mercy and hope.

So then, pray for vocations? By all means. However let us pray the Lord will reform and renew the Church. Let us renew our commitment to build a Church that is more welcoming, more inclusive, and more compassionate. When the Lord sees us getting serious about this I do not think he will be found wanting in sending the cavalry!

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Paddy Butler	Una Clarke	John Corcoran
Corcoran Family	Philip Griffin	Holy Souls
Patricia Hughes	Ann Kavanagh	Andy Lawlor
Lily Lawlor	Sarah Maguire	Philip McCarthy
Bid McTiernan	Eileen Murphy	Vera Murphy
Chris O'Connor	Tony O'Connor	Eoghan O'Neill
Mary O'Reilly	Andrew Quinlan	Alfie Redmond
Anne Redmond	Luke Redmond	Padraig Whyte

**Recent Funerals**

Glenda Cody	Val Dempsey	Ruth Hyland
Patricia McDonnell	Elizabeth McKenna	

**FAITH MOMENT**

The 'Hail Mary' is a prayer that echoes the unique role of Mary in the plan of our redemption. The Rosary is a meditative prayer that is a compendium, or summary, of the entire Gospel. By praying the Rosary, we join with Mary in contemplating the mysteries of Christ's life, death and resurrection.

**BOOK OF THE WEEK**

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF VATICAN II  
GIUSEPPE ALBERGIO**

ORBIS BOOKS MARYKNOLL, NEW YORK 2006. Pp 141

As many of you are aware I am passionately interested in the reform and renewal of the Church, most specifically the Irish Church. This interest on my part is often mistaken for disloyalty. I am seen as a discontent who wants to found his own Church, or at least some splinter or break away group from it. Nothing could be further from the truth. As part of my own journey within the Church I have been inspired by Angelo Roncalli, Pope John XXIII, and he in turn has led me back to Vatican II. The author of Book of the Week is responsible for the world acclaimed five volume History of Vatican II. 'Here is a concise and reader-friendly overview of the story for those not intrepid enough to tackle the five volumes'. I found this fascinating.

**RUN4AUTISM  
5K PARK RUN 2019**

Join us for the ANNUAL #RUN4AUTISM  
IN CORKAGH PARK SUNDAY 11.00AM MAY 26TH  
REGISTER AT: [bit.ly/run4autism19](http://bit.ly/run4autism19) AS I AM. IE

**Self-Help Africa**

Dedicated to ending hunger and poverty in rural Africa  
Church Gate Collection  
after all the Masses this Sunday

**St. Vincent DePaul**

Church Gate Collection  
Next Sunday

**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>	

**Today is Ministry Sunday**

**A Special Ministry Sunday Collection**

In support of Lay Ministry in the Dublin Diocese will be taken up this weekend at all the Masses. It will replace the Share Collection.

This collection **used to be** taken up on Good Shepherd Sunday (12th May this year) to support the diocesan seminarians.

**RONCALLI REFORM**

The Roncalli Reform, founded last October by Fr Joe, is a group dedicated to the ongoing reform of the Church. The key elements are: Contemplative Prayer, Discussion, Fellowship and Prophetic Action.

**It's next meeting takes place  
Next Thursday May 30 7 - 9pm  
in St. Matthews. All Welcome.**

**Church Collections**

	<b>5 May</b>
1st Collection	€830
2nd Collection	€605
Family Offering	€610

**Cemetery Masses:**

Palmerstown June 16 @ 3:00pm  
Glasnevin June 30 @ 3:00pm  
Newlands Cross July 14 @ 3:00pm

**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.

**SPECIAL DATE IN MAY**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR GIRLS  
SUNDAY MAY 26TH @ 12 noon

**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	20/05	<b>Jn 14: 21-26</b>	'The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you'.
Tue	21/05	<b>Jn 14: 27-31</b>	'Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.'
Wed	22/05	<b>Jn 15: 1-8</b>	'It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit.'
Thu	23/05	<b>Jn 15: 9-11</b>	'I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete'.
Fri	24/05	<b>Jn 15: 12-17</b>	<b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH IN CHINA</b> 'What I command you is to love one another'.
Sat	25/05	<b>Jn 15: 18-21</b>	'If the world hates you, remember it hated me before you'.

