



Rumblings from the Bunker

BUT DID JESUS REALLY COME BACK FROM THE DEAD? MAYBE IT WAS A GHOST? MAYBE HE DID NOT REALLY DIE?

I hope you enjoy your egg, or eggs, I mean your Easter eggs!

I am going to try not to eat too many. One would be enough. I hear there is one on the way. I think it is a kit-kat one! For many people Easter is about Easter eggs, and chickens, and spring time and maybe Spring lamb, and a break from school or work. Yes of course it's all these things and more. If we have any little bit of faith, Easter is of course about Jesus.

A lot of people do not realize that for followers of Jesus it is actually the most important time in the year. Yes even more than Christmas! Now don't get me wrong: of course Christmas is beautiful. However that said, Easter, and I mean the three special days that we call the Easter Triduum, actually brings us into the very heart of the Christian story.

In other words God so loved the world that he sent his only Son into the world that all might be saved. He was to suffer and die a most brutal and wholly undeserved death so that we would not die forever. Put differently Jesus died so that we would be forgiven for our sins. Of course what is crucial to Easter is the central truth that the story does not end on Good Friday but rather Easter morning.

For me my personal highlights during these sacred days include the Washing of the Feet, the Veneration of the Cross, and I love the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. I love that we begin with fire and light outside the Church. I love the Exsultet. I love all the readings. It's an added bonus for me if there is a baptism at the Vigil. I really love when we all renew our Baptismal promises.

I am a little surprised that people who I would have thought know the story of Jesus sometimes say very strange things. For example some people say but did He really come back to life? Did he rise from the dead?

Some go as far as to say that maybe he did not really die. It's not so much that they are saying that he was pretending that he was dead; more that he went through the motions. This is terrible. In fact it is so wrong that it is in the realm of heresy. It comes from overemphasizing the divinity of Jesus to the neglect or dilution of his humanity. What happens here is Jesus is viewed as some sort of amalgam of Spider-Man, Superman and Harry Potter! To do this is, as our granny might have said, is to fly in the face of God.

From time to time we need to remind ourselves that Jesus was fully human, fully divine. God AND man. This is our Faith. We need to be clear, he gave his last breath, he yielded his Spirit, in the fully human way in which he was tired, hungry, and in the same way that he wept.

The stories of his Resurrection, some of which survive in our four gospels, give us some very important information about the Risen Jesus. The Risen Jesus is the same Jesus they have come to know and love. Yet we note the Risen Jesus is recognizable but changed. Clearly he is now beyond death. In fact he has beaten death. The great news here is that he has beaten death not just for himself but for us. We meet the Risen Jesus AFTER he has beaten death but BEFORE he goes to the Father. Another very important thing to note is that the Risen Jesus is not a ghost. This is why we have the finger of Thomas touching the wound of Jesus. This is also why we have Jesus cooking breakfast for his disciples AND eating with them.

Not only is the Jesus story, 'the greatest story ever told', it is a living reality that you and I are a key part of. What comfort, what good news, that sickness and suffering and death itself, does not have the final say! Yes, enjoy the roast lamb or whatever you're having for dinner, don't overdo the Easter Eggs, but at some point, for yourself and all your loved ones, who have gone before you shout out, good and loud, Alleluia! Alleluia! He is Risen. Happy Easter!

MASS INTENTIONS

Jimmy Callaghan	Wayne Duff	Bernadette Heavey
Eugene McGrath	Mary Mullen	Noel Mullen
Josie Rothwell	Paddy Rothwell	

Recent Funerals:

Sheila Herbert	Angela McDonnell	Mary O'Reilly
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MASS TIMES

Weekends	Weekdays:
Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30	Mon, Thur, Fri: 10.00
Sunday: 09.00,10.30,12.00	Wed: No Mass
Tuesday: No Prayer Service	
Parish Centre closed Mon, Tue, Wed	

FAITH MOMENT

The liturgy celebrates the Paschal Mystery, above all, in the 'Sacred Triduum' of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. On Holy Thursday, by instituting the Eucharist, Jesus anticipates his dying and rising from the dead. Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection are bound together as one redemptive action of divine love for the salvation of the world.

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.

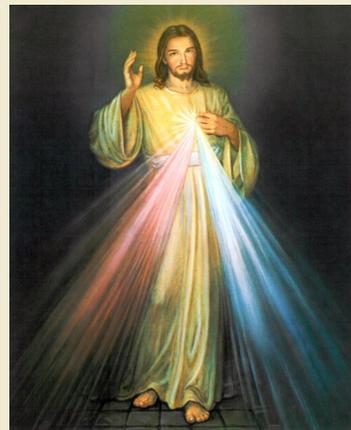
**It's next meeting takes place on
Tuesday April 30 7 - 9 pm in St. Matthews.
All welcome.**

BOOK OF THE WEEK

**BOOK OF THE WEEK
JOURNEY TO EMMAUS
DAVID FORRESTER**

ST. PAULS LONDON 2009 Pp 120

A very reflective, prayerful little book. Based on the beautiful resurrection story in St. Luke's Gospel, reading this book, for me, was like going on retreat. It is very much about trying to bring us into the presence of Jesus. In a way just as the disciples failed to recognize Jesus we are brought to ask, what is it that prevents me from recognizing or getting closer to the Lord?



**Divine Mercy
Devotions
St. Matthew's
Sunday 28 April
@ 3.00 pm**

**Free Dietitian Led XPERT Course for Type 2
Diabetes in Ballyfermot Library**

A free 6 week course to help you manage your
Type 2 Diabetes.

This is an award inning education course delivered by the
HSE Community Dietitian.

Starting Wednesday 1st May and every Wednesday up to
and including Wednesday 5th June in the Quarryvale
Family Resource Centre, Clondalkin.

Places are limited and you must register to attend.

Call Elaine Brennan, Diabetes Co-ordinator
on 076 695 8054 to register for the course
and find out more information .

SVP Gate Collection for March was €350
Quiz and Raffle raised €1415.

Thanks to all who participated

Winners of Baskets were: Josephine Armstrong
Michael Byrne Anne Griffen Caroline Kelly

Church Collections

	31 Mar	7 Apr
1st Collection	€770	€890
2nd Collection	€540	€740
Family Offering	€730	€905

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Tuesday 20th August - Tuesday 27th August4

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	22/04	Mt 28: 8-15	'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'
Tue	23/04	Jn 20: 11-18	'So Mary of Magdala went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and that he had said these things to her'.
Wed	24/04	Lk 24: 13-35	'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'
Thu	25/04	Lk 24: 35-48	'Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it.'
Fri	26/04	Jn 21: 1-14	'This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.'