



## Rumblings from the Bunker

As the Papal Commission on Clerical Abuse meets this week in Rome my thoughts have drifted back to my appointment with Pope Francis at the end of August last year on the Navan Road. Let's pray for the important work going on this week, that the Lord will bless it and give healing to all involved.

### PAPAL APPOINTMENT

Unsought, unexpected invitation crashed into afternoon walk, eight tickets forged in sadness.

Stuttering acceptance, privilege vying with pain, grateful to extraordinary Ordinary.

Two long periods of waiting divided by speedy drive to Navan road

Peppered with fear, fear of pain. Theirs not mine, rage, red raw. Mine merely raw.

Tired old ordinary supreme pontiff rocking slightly into pool of hard truths

Transforms into engaged eager listener, seeking to know, harder still to understand.

Darkness swirled around him, bowing but not breaking, underworld strong but not enough.

Of the ninety minutes, I looked deeply, and heart-listened for eighty.

I looked and saw in this beautiful Shepherd: hope, strength and above all joy,

Amidst the pain, the sorrow, the burden...deep down a ripple-less well of Gospel Joy.

I proffered reform and old Roncalli and he replied Rosmini?

We met on lamentation of prophet-less leadership.

Twice I kissed his hands, my old rosary now renewed by his blessing,

As he left I knew I had been in the presence of one who knows Jesus.

His holiness?... apt and true, rock assured, I was reminded of another who knew Jesus,

Thirty years before, in the Upper Room, in the small village, 'that little springtime',

In the Burgundy Hills, our brother and friend, Roger.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

William Canning	John Hart	Sheila Hart
Michael Lee Snr.	Edward Lynch	Marie McCormack
Laura McDonnell	Camillus Murray	Charlie O'Reilly
Tommy Ryan	Anne Seagrave	Tyrrell Family
Ann Whelan	Maylela Wilkes	

**Recent Funerals**

Anne Gargan                      William (Des) Byrne

**NOVENA OF GRACE**

Our Annual Novena of Grace is not far away, March 4th-12th. We are very excited about our speaker this year. Fr Eamonn Mulcahy - Moya Doyle's brother - is a Spiritan or Holy Ghost Father Missionary originally from Manchester. A priest since 1980, he has had extensive involvement with people, especially the poor, all over the world, primarily in Africa. Apart from his life as a missionary, Eamonn is steeped in theology, is a gifted communicator whose passion for the Gospel is infectious. Our novena is always a time of God's grace, this year, with Fr. Eamonn leading us, it will be particularly special.

**FAITH MOMENT**

Faith is the human response to God, who reveals. For Christians, faith is a free response of assent to the revelation of God, revealed in the Trinity of persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Christian life is a relationship that begins with God's revelation in Christ Jesus and our response in faith to that revelation. Faith is a concrete gift from the Holy Spirit, who plants the seed of faith within us, nourishes and strengthens our faith and brings us to perfection in it.

**BOOK OF THE WEEK**

**VOICES OF THE GOSPELS**

**COLLEEN WETHERED**

**The Catholic Printing Company of Farnworth Cheshire, England 1998. Pp 37**

At a mere thirty seven pages does this collection even deserve the title 'book'? The author is married with four children and is a Catholic teacher in England. This is her first volume of meditations. One might argue that the entire collection is one long poem. Characters from the Gospel reflect on their meeting and experience of Jesus. It includes the voices of Nicodemus, Lazarus, Mary Magdalene and Cleopas. Unusual, I found it thought provoking and encouraging. Worth a look.

Candle Week  
Cherry Orchard Church  
**Follow the Light**  
Everyone is Welcome  
Monday February 25 — Friday March 1  
Every Night @ 7.30pm

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

**MASS TIMES**

<b>St. Matthew's</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: 10.00 Prayer Service</b>	

**Table Quiz in Aid of St. Matthew's  
in the West County Hotel, Chapelizod  
Tuesday 19th Feb @ 8.00pm  
Table of 4 — €25  
Raffle on the night**

**Proclaim**

Our Lady of the Assumption Ballyfermot  
Saturday 2nd March — 9.30am—1.30pm  
A workshop for ministers of the Word  
led by Patricia Carroll  
Coordinator for Evangelisation and Ecumenism

**ARCHBISHOP MARTIN'S REQUEST OF YOU.**

The Archbishop, Diarmuid Martin, has requested that as many as possible of us complete an on line survey into how we celebrate the Sacraments in the diocese. He encourages all parishioners, as do I, to take part in this and assist us in planning for the future of the diocese.

**Details on Diocesan Website under  
Latest News — Survey on Sacraments**

**Church Collections**

	10 Feb
1st Collection	840
2nd Collection	740
Family Offering	1055

**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**

**GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon 25/02	<b>Mk 9: 14-29</b>	'What are you arguing about with them?'
Tue 26/02	<b>Mk 9: 30-37</b>	'What were you arguing about on the road?'
Wed 27/02	<b>Mk 9: 38-40</b>	'Anyone who is not against us is for us'.
Thu 28/02	<b>Mk 9: 41-50</b>	'Salt is a good thing, but if salt has become insipid, how can you season it again?'
Fri 01/03	<b>Mk 10: 1-12</b>	<b>ST. DAVID, BISHOP</b> 'And again crowds gathered round him, and again he taught them, as his custom was.'
Sat 02/03	<b>Mk 10: 13-16</b>	'I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'.