



FEAST OF ST MATTHEW

Wednesday September 21st is our special Feast Day. It is the Feast of St. Matthew. On this day we thank God for the gift of Matthew and we recall why we are proud to have him as our patron and why he could prove a friend worth having here in Ballyfermot.

Schedule For the Day

The Church will be open from 9.00am - 9.00pm

There will be Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day.

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| 9.30am | Morning Prayer from The Divine Office |
| 10.00am | Mass |
| 11.00am | Tea/Coffee & Pancakes |
| 12.00 | Stations of the Cross:
Through the Eyes of Matthew |
| 12.30pm | Lunch — Soup & Fresh Rolls |
| 3.00pm | Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession
Ends at 5.00pm |
| 6.00pm | Scripture Rosary |
| 7.00pm | Talk on St. Matthew by Fr. Joe |
| 7.30pm | Mass of St. Matthew. including the launch
of a new Prayer/Litany of St. Matthew |
| 8 30pm | Benediction |

N.B It is so important that the Blessed Sacrament is not left unattended during the day. Perhaps you would sign up to spend an hour in the Lord's presence on this special day. If you can make this commitment :

Please contact Moya in the Parish Office @ 6265695

SOLEMN NOVENA—ASSUMPTION PARISH

This year marks the 150th Jubilee Year of the Redemptorists special mission of making the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help known throughout the world. The Solemn Novena in her honour takes place in the Assumption Church, Ballyfermot, from Fri Sept. 23rd to Sat Oct. 1st. The main session will be at 7pm with guest speakers most nights. Healing/Blessing of the Sick and Elderly will take place on Sat 24th at 11.30: Blessing of Babies and Children on Sun Sept. 25th at 3.00pm. See fliers and/or Assumption Facebook for further details. Come and join us. All are welcome.



BOOK OF THE WEEK

WALKABOUT

LIFE AS HOLY SPIRIT

MARK PATRICK HEDERMAN

COLUMBA PRESS DUBLIN 2005 pp 352

The author, just finishing his term as Abbot of Glenstal, remains one of the freshest and most prophetic voices in the Irish Church. This book is one of his finest. It details three years in his life, a type of spiritual experiment, when he went 'walkabout' at the 'whim' of the Holy Spirit. Seven countries and three continents later **WALKABOUT** witnesses to the presence and power of that same Spirit alive and well and working in the world. A very interesting book.

Church Collection Totals Week Beginning 4/9

First Collection	880
Share Collection	560
Family Offerings	2033

(Two Weeks)

PARISH SHOP

Cards, Calendars, Candles and much more available at the shop in the Parish Centre

For Your Diary

25 November @ 8.00pm
(Doors Open @ 6.30pm)

Dublin Gospel Choir
With Special Guests
Bro. Kevin Singers
in St. Matthew's
Tickets €12

Contact Ken Byrne
@ 086 236 52 88

Parish Centre
Phone: 626 56 95

FAITH MOMENT

The Holy Spirit is within us. It is there in our Baptism. We receive it more fully at Confirmation. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that the bread and wine at Mass are changed into Christ present amongst us. St. Paul reminds us that it is the Spirit within us that prompts us to pray.

St. Vincent De Paul

Monthly Collection
amounted to €555

Be Part of Irelands Biggest Coffee Morning

In aid of the Hospice,
Harold's Cross
Coffee/Tea/ Cake Morning
After all the Masses
Sat – Sun 24/25th Sept
in the Parish Centre
Donations of bought
or baked cakes,
scones etc.
would be very welcome



St. Matthew's Church Bethany Support Group

will be having their first meeting
on Tuesday 11th October
in the Parish Centre
between 7 and 8pm.

If at any time you feel the need
for support or a listening ear after
the loss of a loved one we would
be glad to help.

CONTACT PHONE
087 9411628

Rest in Peace

Frances Begley

*Blessings and Sympathy
to the Family*



MASS TIMES

Saturday: 6.30 (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 9.00, 9.45 (Convent),
10.30, 12.00

Weekdays:

10.00 Monday – Friday

7.30 Tuesday

Eucharistic Adoration

Mon 10.30 – 4.00

Wed 10.30 – 9.00

Fri 10.30 – 9.00



Divine Mercy Meeting

Every Wed Evening @ 8.00pm
in the Prayer Room

Mass Intentions

6.30 Saturday

Anne, John Perry
Catherine McGrane
Greta, Seamus Maguire
Molly Grant
Michael Fowler

9.00 Sunday

Helena Flynn

12.00 Sunday

Christina Cullen
Christy Carroll

10.00 Monday

Christina Cullen
Brian Higgins

7.30 Tuesday

Mary, Tony Notaro
Evelyn McDonagh
Tom, Mollie Ritchie

10.00 Friday

John Dillon



S.P.R.E.D.

are looking for a volunteer to drive
their minibus. Please enquire at
Parish Office Mon – Fri between
10.00 and 13.00

Gospel Readings for the Week

Mon 19/09 **Lk 8:16-18**

He puts it on a lamp stand so that people may see the light.

Tue 20/09 **Lk 8:19-21**

Those who hear the Word of God and put it into practice.

Wed 21/09 **Mt 9: 9-13**

FEAST OF ST. MATTHEW, OUR PARISH PATRON

Thu 22/09 **Lk 9: 7-9**

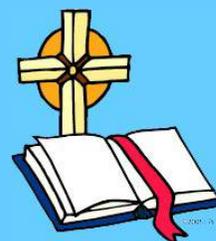
He was anxious to see Jesus.

Fri 23/09 **Lk 9: 18-22**

FEAST OF ST. PIUS OF PIETRELCINA. PADRE PIO

Sat 24/09 **Lk 9: 43-45**

You must have these words constantly in your mind.



Rumblings from the Bunker



THATS A HEAVY CROSS

Last Wednesday, September 14th was the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. It's a quite a mouthful as far as feast days go and in a way as a title it may not have instant appeal. At some level the Cross may present us with fear if not dread. Even in daily chat we use the phrase, 'that's a heavy Cross to bear' or much worse than this, is something like 'stop moaning or God will send you a bigger Cross'. This brings me to another core question, worthy of reflection, if the Cross is so central to the Christian life, what exactly does it mean for us who believe? How does it impact on our lives?

It is hard for us today to have any real concept of the horror of the Cross at the time of Jesus. It was a cruel instrument of torture and death. It was usually preceded by scourging and a general weakening of the victim. Crucifixion was a gruesome industry. It was perfected by the Romans as an important instrument in their arsenal of domination. Perhaps one of the most horrible aspects of crucifixion was, that in addition to the bloodied, battered physical reality, was the shame. The public humiliation, and crucifixion was a public affair, meant that a family member who suffered such an end, was rarely spoken of again. It is hard to understand how the Cross that was a symbol of such pain, shame and embarrassment is now recognised the world over as the great symbol of hope. Worn by millions for protection, as a mark of faith and clung to as many again in sickness and death, the cross is now at the centre of our faith. Of course the transformation of the cross from cruel instrument of torture to the ultimate emblem of unwavering hope lies in the actual crucifixion of Jesus. It is the hanging of Jesus on the Cross that changes it forever. 'Behold the wood of the Cross on which hung the Saviour of the World!' It is precisely because of the blood sweat and tears of Jesus on the Cross that it can never again be simply about torture and death. This is because the death of Jesus ends not in death but in resurrection.

There seems considerable confusion around our involvement or connection with the Cross of Jesus. As alluded to above there is a suggestion that God sends us crosses, indeed worse again that he sends us them to punish us, or at least to teach us a lesson. Nothing could be further from the truth. Will we ever learn the basic premise as told by St. John, God is Love. Beside this truth is another one, as Pope Francis reminds us, namely that God is Mercy. It makes no sense to suggest that bad things, including punishment, come from God. The idea that God is in the business of sending us yet a bigger Cross to teach us a lesson is not coming from a healthy understanding or appreciation of God as revealed to us by Jesus. Sometimes even religious people, or maybe it is more accurate to say, especially religious people, refer to the notion of 'taking up one's Cross every day'. It is true that Jesus prepares us for a share in his Cross. However what we experience is little more than the shadow of the Cross. It is also true that we are expected to bear this experience with joy. However we should never lose sight of the fact that Jesus died for us. This was a full and real suffering and death. We are not to reenact in our lives the horror of the crucifixion. Jesus suffered and died that we do not have to. It is good to remember the great line from the beautiful hymn, Abide with Me, 'hold thou thy Cross before my closing eyes, shine through the gloom and point me to the skies!' Best of all, the story of Jesus does not end on the Cross but in the Empty Tomb. 'Why look among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here, He has Risen!'

P.S. INVITATION TO CELEBRATE MATTHEW

Next Wednesday, September 21st, is a special day for us here in the parish. This is the day when we give God thanks for Matthew. Here in Ballyfermot we boast a patron saint who is not only one of the Twelve but also one of the four Evangelists, or Gospel writers. In other words the one whom our parish is named after, the one to whom we turn to in a special way, is one who actually knew Jesus. Matthew talked with, listened to, walked with Jesus. In addition to this in Matthew we have one who is not born a saint but becomes one. He has a sinful past. He put himself first and others last. However the story of Matthew becomes one of service. Matthew becomes a giver instead of a taker. Matthew leaves behind his mean, selfish greedy ways and after meeting Jesus and being called by him becomes passionate about living a life for others. Please consider spending at least some part of his feast day with us on Wednesday. The church will be open from 9am - 9pm. The programme for St. Matthew's Day is available in this newsletter, our website or from the church. It would be great to see you there.