



Rumblings from the Bunker

NO WAY, DEFINITELY NOT! NO TATOOS!!

'I've been thinking for a long time about getting a tattoo. I'm not really sure what I want, I mean what kind of a tattoo. To tell you the truth I'm not really sure where I am going to get it, I mean where on my body. I think probably on my chest.'

'Well I am telling you there will be no tattoos in this house. When we were growing up it was only soldiers and sailors and of course prisoners that had tattoos, anyway they are dirty looking out things and you are stuck with them. It is almost impossible to get them off. So no, no way, not under my roof.'

This was a conversation that I sat on the edge of recently. In a way I was glad I had not been asked for my opinion because at that stage I was not really sure how I felt about tattoos, though I am clearer now. I have known for a long time that there is a whole world there that I know little or nothing about. The world of the tattoo

'I tattooed a number on her arm. She tattooed her name on my heart.

In 1942, Lale Sokolov arrived in Auschwitz-Birkenenau. He was given the job of tattooing the prisoners marked for survival - scratching numbers into his fellow victims' arms in indelible ink to create what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust.

Waiting in line to be tattooed, terrified and shaking was a young girl. For Lale - a dandy, a jack - the - lad, a bit of a chancer - it was love at first sight. And he was determined not only to survive himself, but to ensure this woman, Gita, did, too.'

This is the story, the love story of the tattooist of Auschwitz. If you have not read it, make sure you do.

I always knew the tattooists I meet down in the Full Stop Cafe were sound lads, friendly and so on. I never doubted their professionalism and a good while ago a few people showed me their work and I discovered that they are artists. However there is another aspect of their work that I have been unaware of until these last few weeks. What I am talking about could almost be called a ministry. Clearly at times the tattooist relationship with his or her client, if that is the right word, moves from business or operating on the level of customer and the service provided, to something much deeper. Yes the truth of the matter is that both receiving and indeed 'delivering', drawing, painting, or sketching the tattoo has an intimate dimension to it.

When you think about it, the work is carried out on the skin, which is personal enough in itself. However, let us remember, in addition to this, this is no fleeting encounter. This is something that will have been planned for weeks and will take hours, and perhaps several long sittings to complete. The real learning for me about tattoos in these days is the real significance of many of these tattoos and indeed the almost sacred exchange that often happens between tattooist and the tattooed.

I have been privileged to hear the story of a number of tattoos and it has erased forever any notion that they are frivolous or tacky. Not so. The name of a beautiful little daughter that Mum and Dad were only able to hold for a few days. The minute, day and hour tattooed in number form of when a much loved Mum went to God. Suddenly a new world was opened to me. The tattooist is now the confidante, the psychotherapist, maybe even the 'confessor'. Not in the sense of the Sacrament. Sometimes the significance of the tattoo is too painful, too sacred to speak of. Yet by its nature it is always there. A constant reminder. Perhaps a little comfort. Talisman. Worry stone. An intimate part of us. Could it be that the tattoo is a way to prompt us, in the madness of a given day to take time to remember. To take time to say thanks. Is there not a little theology here. The theology of the tattoo?

Mass Intentions for the Week

Mass Times

Jimmy Doyle	Richard Doyle	Marie Finn
Eddie Hickey	Esther James	Anne Lawless
Mary Lawlor	Philip Maher	Jacinta McCarten-O'Farrell
James McGuirk	Elizabeth O'Neill	John O'Neill
Joe Quinn	Eilish Robinson	Noel Robinson
Bridget Ryan		

Recent Funerals

Eddie Dunphy	Kathleen Glynn	Sean Lynch
Ann McCormack	William O'Flaherty	

St. Matthew's **Weekdays:**
Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30 **Mon, Thur, Fri: 10.00**
Sunday: 09.00,10.30,12.00
No Convent Mass @ 9.45 in August
Tuesday:10.00 Prayer Service

NO WEDNESDAY EVENING MASS IN AUGUST

Weekly Collections

	July 15	July 22
First Collection	€ 720	905
Second Collection	€ 575	630
Family Offering	€ 710	885

**Concert in Aid of
St. Matthew's & Peter McVerry Trust**

Friday 30th November in St. Matthews Tickets €15
Show Starts @ 7.45pm Doors open at 6pm.

Performing will be the Flukey Ukeys, The Dublin Gospel Choir, Ms. Mary Byrne, Matt Dodd, the Girls from St. Louise's School and the Boys from St. Lorcan's BNS.
 Contact Ken Byrne for more information on 086 236 52 88

Don't forget to visit our website
www.stmatthewsballyfermot.com

And our Facebook page,
www.facebook.com/st.matthews.ballyfermot/

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

FAITH MOMENT

To be human is to be faced with moral choices: 'to do what is good and avoid evil'. The Sacraments of Initiation, Healing and Service strengthen us with the wisdom and capacity to choose what is good and avoid evil. Our free will and intellect are manifestations of our being made in the image of God.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

IN SINU JESU
WHEN HEART SPEAKS TO HEART
THE JOURNAL OF A PRIEST AT PRAYER
A BENEDICTINE MONK

Angelico Press. Ohio USA 2016. Pp 313

I would be very interested to know what you make of this book. It is quite a tome at over three hundred pages. I find it difficult to capture it in words. The sub title, heart speaks to heart, is perhaps the best way into the subject matter. It is essentially a love story. However it is a love story that transcends all human relationships. This is a diary or a journal of the ever deepening relationship between a monk and the Lord. It is profound. It is moving. It is challenging. It's not an easy read but it is totally unique and brings us into the very soul of the monk who is alone in the presence of God. If you do follow this up please let me know what you think of it.

ARE YOU CARING FOR A LOVED ONE WITH DEMENTIA?
Our research team needs your help!

We are holding a series of workshops throughout Ireland to spread awareness of the 'Enhancing Carers Resilience' (EnCaRe) resource.

We are seeking feedback from a broad range of family carers, to promote the EnCaRe resource.

The workshop will take place on September 4th and will be completed in a single day which will run from 10:00 – 13:00. There will be refreshments at the meeting, followed by lunch after the workshop

Location: **Dublin – The Ashling Hotel (September 4th)**

Participants will be invited to engage with other family carers to tell of their experiences in caregiving.

If you are interested in participating in this workshop or would like more information on the project please contact Kevin Deegan on +353 85 852 9352 or email kevin@carealliance.ie

Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland
Church Gate Collection
Next Saturday/Sunday after all the Masses

Youth 2000 Summer Festival,
Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
Thursday 16th – Sunday 19th August 2018.

For young people aged 16-35, an opportunity not to be missed to experience the Catholic faith and meet many new people. The festival is donation only. Free buses available from towns throughout Ireland. For more information and to book online

E-Mail: www.youth2000.ie — Phone 01 6753690

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon 06/08	Mk 9: 2 – 10	FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION 'Listen to him'
Tue 07/08	Mt 14: 22 - 36	'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.'
Wed 08/08	Mt 15: 21 - 28	ST. DOMINIC, PRIEST 'Woman, you have great faith'.
Thu 09/08	Mt 25: 1 – 13	ST. TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS (EDITH STEIN), VIRGIN, MARTYR 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this.'
Fri 10/08	Jn 12: 24 - 26	FEAST OF ST. LAURENCE, Deacon 'Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest'.
Sat 11/08	Mt 17: 14 - 20	FEAST OF ST. CLARE, VIRGIN 'Because you have little faith.'

Papal Visit
August 25 - 26

Saturday 25
No Mass at 6.30

Sunday 26
No Mass at 9.00,
10.30, 12.00

Mass at 9.30am
ONLY