



Rumblings from the Bunker

WILL IT BE OK TO BE CATHOLIC IN THE NEW IRELAND?

One government minister has his head in his hands listening to a Bishop speaking about Church teaching at a conference, whilst another minister has asked for more money from religious orders as part of the redress for the mother and babies homes. All this against dark days for the Church, not just in this country but worldwide. There's no doubt we need a new day, not just in the country but in the Church. It seems that the good old days were not always that good. Yes of course there are lovely things about the past. In some ways things were simpler and more wholesome. Things seemed less pressurized, less rushed. Of course as we now know there was another side to the 'good old days'. There was secrecy and darkness and power was often abused. Many people have a legacy of deep pain which they carry from the past. Whilst we can see that there are dark days, I think it's true to say it appears that something is dying and there's seems to be something new beginning. 'The times they are a changing!' Where are we in this? What does the future hold for people of faith?

Change is always challenging. I think this is particularly true as we get older. We like the familiar. We like routine. There's something safe and secure about the regularity of life. The unknown can really undermine us. Indeed the known can be frightening too, especially if the known is new and involves change. Having said this I think if we are honest there had to be change both in Irish society and the Irish Church. I think this is true of both entities in their own right but I think it is especially true when we examine the relationship that existed between the Church and the State. Whatever about the old idea of Catholic laws for a Catholic country and whether that was ever healthy the reality is that as a *modus operandi* it is now defunct. The debate around the strengths and weaknesses of our former days may well have a value as the study of all history has, if only that we might learn enough not to repeat mistakes.

In a nutshell my position on Church State relations, is that it is time to call it a day. It is a soured relationship. We need a divorce or an amicable separation, though I doubt that's possible. It is long past the time for us as Church to let the State be the State. At the core of this is respect for our Muslim sisters and brothers, the Jewish Community, other members of the Christian family and of course many people for whom this island is now home and who do not belong to any particular faith. I am wondering how gracious we can be in letting go? It's hard to let go. It's really hard to let go of power. It's hard to let go of prestige. It's tough when you see the end of your comfort zone. Maybe the question is can we die well?

Where is the hope in that, you might ask? You might say to me 'Father you are a priest, do you believe in the resurrection at all? Well actually I do have hope, though it's often a delicate flower. It's definitely not a triumphalist hope. It's fragile. It's born in suffering. It's a hope that is as poor and small as the crib. It's a hope that is as bloody and shameful and horrible as the Cross. Yes my hope is in the Servant King who got down on his knees and washed dirty feet. Will there be a new Irish Church? Yes, I think so. Smaller, leaner, vibrant and prophetic. It'll be more humble. Collaborative rather than didactic, though not a soft touch, not a Rollover Church. We may well need heroic courage and to cultivate real gospel bravery in the face of adversity. Maybe we'll start by asking 'will it be ok to be Catholic in the New Ireland'?

Mass Intentions for the Week

Barbara Browne	James Browne	Liam Browne
Charlie Connolly	Mollie Connolly	Tony Fanning
Fr. Stephen Foster	Pauline Heravey	Patrick Knowd
Annie McCann	Essie McCabe	Celene McGrattan
Anna McLoughlin	Kathleen Moloney	Margaret Slator
Joseph Taylor	Fr. Vincent Xavier	Colm Voyles
Recent Funerals:		
Mary Berhan	Jimmy Gray	Christine Keating

Mass Times

St. Matthew's
Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30
Sunday: 09.00, 10.30, 12.00
Convent Mass @ 9.45
Tuesday: 10.00 Prayer Service

Weekdays:
Mon, Thur, Fri: 10.00
Wed 7.00pm

Weekly Collections

Aug 26

First Collection € 385
Second Collection € 280
Family Offering € 465

MS Ireland

Church Gate Collection
 Amount Collected: €826
 Thanks to all
 who contributed.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

**READING WITH GOD
 LECTIO DIVINA
 DAVID FOSTER OSB
 DOWNSIDE ABBEY**

BLOOMSBURY LONDON 2005 Pp 161

This beautiful book is quite literally steeped in the Word, as in the Word of God. Who better to bring us to it than a man, a monk, steeped in the monastic, contemplative tradition?

We find in Foster a skillful and wise guide. This is a very prayerful book which can be used as an introduction to those who want to get serious about prayer in their lives or who need a refresher course.

FAITH MOMENT

The Tenth Commandment extends the meaning of the Seventh and Ninth Commandments as it urges poverty of spirit and generosity of heart. These virtues free us from envy, greed and excessive materialism. This commandment is yet another means by which Christians living in the midst of a consumerist and materialistic society become a countercultural witness in their imitation of Christ Jesus.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

First Collection

Pays our priests, and helps support sick and retired the priests of the Diocese.

Share Collection

Helps towards maintenance and building in the poorer parishes of the Diocese.

Envelope Collection - Family Offering

Main source of income in the Parish, and the only money retained by the parish. It covers all admin and general expenses, church & grounds maintenance, heating, light, repairs, insurance etc. Vital for the upkeep of our parish.

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, Donna Dunne, 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

**Our Lady of
 the Assumption**

Parish Ballyfermot

SOLEMN NOVENA

To Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Fri 21st - Saturday 29th September 2018



Hampers Raffle

To raise money to support Sr. Orla Tracey a Loreto Sister working in Education in Rumbek in South Sudan.

Tickets will be on sale before and after each of the Masses

on **Saturday 8th Sunday 9th and**

Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th September.

Tickets €2 per Strip or 3 Strips for €5

Church Gate Collection

This Weekend

in aid of Mellon Educate:
 Building Schools & Houses
 in South Africa's Townships

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon 10/09	Lk 6: 6-11	St. Peter Claver, Priest 'But they were furious, and began to discuss the best way of dealing with Jesus'.
Tue 11/09	Lk 6: 12-19	'People tormented by unclean spirits were also cured'.
Wed 12/09	Lk 1: 39-47	Most Holy Name of Mary 'the child in my womb leapt for joy'.
Thu 13/09	Lk 6: 27-38	St. John Chrysostom 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you'
Fri 14/09	Jn 3: 13-17	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 'Yes God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son...'
Sat 15/09	Jn 19: 25-27	OUR LADY OF SORROWS 'And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home'.