



Rumblings from the Bunker

'IT'S NOT 1979 YOU KNOW!'

I grew up in a part of the country where one of the slogans was 'No Pope here!' I guess I never thought I would see a day when people in this part of the country would not welcome a Pope onto Irish soil. I think for many of us that's a tough pill to swallow. I think it is especially difficult if we were brought up to love the Pope. I think it is also difficult not to like this particular Pope. The truth is he is a very lovable Pope. Another truth is that Ireland in 2018 is a very different Ireland from what it was in 1979 when Pope John Paul II visited our country.

It would be easy to be angry with those who are unhappy with the upcoming Papal visit. How can they be so ungracious, begrudging, so disrespectful. Now whilst there may be some truth in these charges they miss a very important reality. The reality I am speaking of is the Legacy of Pain. We ignore this legacy at our peril. Yes of course, let us hope that we will not stay in pain. Pain is not our future. However there are many people who have a very deep hurt or pain, if not born of the Church, then it is certainly associated with the Church. This is a particular type of pain. It is not the only pain. Whether or not we accept this, it may in fact not be the worst pain in the world. So much of this is irrelevant. When we are in pain, we are in pain, who cares whether it's the worst pain in the world? If we are in pain then we want it to go away.

Whilst the level of pain may not be the most important question it does in fact matter who caused the pain. It is hard to imagine the depth and the relentlessness of pain when it is caused by someone we love. Say for example our Dad, or a close family member. Not only does this pain hurt the individual it wreaks havoc within the family in which it occurs. When the pain is caused by the Church, especially if the pain is inflicted on someone who loves the Church, then that hurt runs deep and represents a particular type of betrayal.

For those hurt by the Church the papal visit can present a very real emotional challenge. The degree that this hurt can be exacerbated or minimized is something we in the Church can exert some control over. There is in my view a delicate balance to be sought. The particular gift of the Holy Spirit necessary for this difficult task is prudence. How do we avoid causing further hurt or suffering and at the same time rejoice not only in the wonderful Meeting of Families and the presence of the Holy Father but also in the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Anyone who knows me, knows that I have no difficulty criticizing the Church when it is warranted but a question has been coming up for me in recent days. I think the catalyst for the question was the Minister for Health's tweet in response to the Bishop of Elphin's address at a recent conference. Commenting on the Bishops remarks which were marking fifty years of Humane Vitae, the Minister tweeted 'please make it stop'. Now I am not too sure what is meant to stop, but if the Minister wants Catholic Bishops to stop fearlessly preaching the Gospel truth, as Kevin Doran was doing in the context of a Catholic conference, then I hope and pray he will have a long wait. In the new liberal Ireland I find myself beginning to wonder, will it be ok to be Catholic? It seems that in the New Ireland one of the main things we will have to safeguard is religious freedom.

I hope we can give Pope Francis a genuine warm céad míle fáilte without any trace of arrogance or triumphalism. I hope we can listen to him with open hearts; he is after all, the divinely appointed Successor of Peter. That's what we Catholics believe. His papacy has been warm and compassionate and has often stepped back from harsh judgement. With humor he has recommended to us how we might use our power. Poignantly he has reminded us that our call is to serve. I believe, in his heart Pope Francis comes to serve. I also believe that his presence amongst us will be a time of special grace for all who have the courage and humility to open their hearts to a new fresh experience of Jesus.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Mass Times

Anne Bradley	Richard Costello	James Foran
Foran Family	Brendan Gahan	Mary Gahan
Leo Hoolahan	Sean Lynch	Pat Mulready
Christy Nugent	Lil Nugent	Paddy Nugent
Lily Sweeney		

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

	Aug 5
First Collection	€ 885
Second Collection	€ 645
Family Offering	€ 640

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

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Event

As part of the World Meeting of Families we have a special event in our parish on Fri 24th August at 3.00pm. A Redemptorist **Cardinal Joesph Tobin**, former head of the Redemptorists, now bishop of Newark, USA, will celebrate Mass. People linked to the Redemptorists from all over Ireland will attend. It will be a special moment for Ballyfermot. We rejoice. All are welcome.

Papal Visit
August 25 - 26

Saturday 25
No Vigil Mass at 6.30

Sunday 26
No Mass at 9.00, 10.30, 12.00

Mass at 9.30am ONLY

BOOK OF THE WEEK

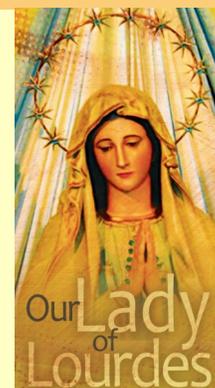
WRITTEN THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE
ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE FOURTH GOSPEL
SANDRA M. SCHNEIDERS
CROSSROAD PUBLISHING 2003 NEW YORK Pp 311

My reviewing and recommending this book should once and for all kill off the notion that I only bring light weight material to your attention. This is no light weight. It is heavy going. Very demanding. Having said that this is a wonderful book. As you would expect from the author this is a scholarly work. Not just that but consider this book is about the Gospel of St. John. This is a new and expanded edition. Of course because it is by Schneiders and because it is about the fourth gospel this is essentially a profound with Jesus. Whilst it will require considerable effort I actually believe anyone who puts in the work will be amply rewarded.

FAITH MOMENT

Sacred images - icons, statues and paintings of saints and stained glass - are all meant to move the faithful to contemplation on the Word of God and on the mysteries of Christ through visible images of beauty.

Pray the Rosary
With Our Pilgrims
at Lourdes
August 16—22



St. Vincent De Paul
 Monthly Church Gate Collection
 will be taken up on first weekend in September

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon 20/08	Mt. 19: 16-22	St. Bernard, Abbot, Doctor	When the young man heard these words he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth' Jesus gazed at them.
Tue 21/08	Mt 19: 23-30	St. Pius X, Pope	
Wed 22/08	Lk. 1: 26-38	Our Lady, Mother, Queen	'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour.'
Thu 23/08	Mt. 22: 1-14	St. Rose of Lima, Virgin'	For many are called, but few are chosen'
Fri 24/08	Jn 1: 45-51	St. Bartholomew, Apostle	'There is an Israelite who deserves the name, incapable of deceit'.
Sat 25/08	Mt. 23: 1-12	St. Louis of France	'The greatest among you must be your servant'.