



Rumblings from the Bunker

MY RECENT VISIT FROM THE DEVIL

Believe it or not there are people who love talking about the devil. The seldom time I speak publicly about the devil there is a small group who are delighted and will implore me to do this more often. I, for my part, refrain from speaking on such a theme unless prompted by the gospel of the day. Generally speaking this group of 'devilish deliberators' love bad news. They are on the lookout for the devil from first thing in the morning, believing that he may jump out of their porridge. They are convinced that he is lurking behind every pillar. They often have an unhealthy preoccupation with death. Indeed they get a surge of energy at even a whiff of a funeral.

If I am really honest I find it hard to be patient with this type of behavior. At best I see it as unhealthy and at its worst it's half mad! Having said in the interests of fairness, I acknowledge that there is another group and whilst they are perhaps less common their position is in fact dangerous to themselves and others. I am referring to those who maintain there is no such thing as the devil.

I believe there is a very clear entity called the evil spirit, sometimes known as the Evil One, the Devil, Lucifer, Beelzebub, the Prince of Darkness, and in popular culture sometimes referred to simply as 'oul Nick'! At times black comedy sees this entity as something funny, and whilst I consider a good sense of humor crucial I see the opportunity for comedy within this realm as limited. The reality is in fact quite literally deadly serious.

When I speak of the Devil or the Evil Spirit I am specifically referring to the malevolent evil force that tortured Jesus in the desert through persistent temptation. It is the same Evil Spirit that seeks the destruction of all that comes from God and all that is good, but most especially seeks the destruction and ultimately the loss of souls. Forgive me my friends for my bluntness, but this includes the destruction of your soul and mine.

In my experience the influence of the Devil over the years has usually been subtle. The presence of the devil in my life is for the most part rooted in bad habits, and selfishness. As I have grown older I have noticed that he thrives where there is fear and confusion. He wants me stuck, unhappy, and enslaved. I have noticed the Devil will attack a person trying to do something for God. It wouldn't be the first time that a person about to commit themselves to God experienced an attack that attempted to throw them into darkness and despair.

Indeed herein lies the explanation as to why many daily Mass goers will experience dark thoughts or temptations designed to keep them from the Mass or at least to distract them whilst they are there. This of course is ultimately trying to rob them of both peace and joy. I should add though that in all my learning about evil I have also been repeatedly confirmed in something else, namely that the Holy Spirit is greater than the Evil Spirit and, above all, that the Devil is no match for Jesus. Which brings me to the main reason for these 'rumblings', namely to share with you my recent visit from the devil.

I was in bed in the rectory in the United States and it was the night before I was to begin preaching the Lenten Mission. This consists of a three part program that I recently wrote called 'Fresh Encounters of Jesus of Nazareth' designed to help people come into a deeper relationship with the Lord. I had been reading, put off the light and turned over to sleep, when it happened.

Suddenly I felt this threatening presence race towards me and in seconds was on me. It seemed to come from behind. It overpowered me. I still managed to breathe but I was motionless. Despite my efforts and desire to lift my arms to lash out, to cry out, to shout for help, impossible. Nothing. I remembered my St. Martin de Porres relic in my t-shirt pocket and asked the holy man from Lima, from whom I get my confirmation name, to intercede for me. I got a little comfort. I asked Mary the Mother of Jesus to help me and I managed to reach my rosary beads. I was terrified at this stage so wanting this presence to lift off me. My response started as a whisper and burst into a roar into the darkness, 'In Jesus's Name, be gone!' Immediately I got peace and relief and calm.

In the coming days I preached, or the Holy Spirit preached the mission, and I did my best not to get in the way. For my part I felt vulnerable, I was conscious of the darkness and of the attack. However, more than anything I was conscious of God's power, his protection and his love for me.

MASS INTENTIONS

Christopher Brady	Lee Casey	Joe Corcoran
Eddie Courtney	Marcella Courtney	Martin Doherty
Ann Fallon	Patrick Fallon	John Herd
Paddy Kearney	Noeleen Keegan	Mabel Keller
Ann Marie Keogh	Christopher Lawlor	Jack Lawlor
Patrick Lawlor	Martin Lynskey	Mary Lynskey
Davy Maher	Pat McGrath	Pascal McGrattan
Harry Murphy	Maura Murphy	Peg Norgrove

Recent Funeral: Josephine Mackie

FAITH MOMENT

A name expresses and conveys the identity and reality of a person - the origins and life story of a person. That is why we expect that our names be treated with respect and reverence. In the same way, the name of God deserves the highest honor and respect.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

**SPIRITUALITY OF THE PSALMS
WALTER BRUEGGMANN**

FORTRESS PRESS. MINNEAPOLIS 2002 Pp 76

A beautiful little gem. The author is a Professor of Old Testament in Georgia. I thought as we continue our Lenten journey a dip into the rich trove of the psalms might be timely. For me when I think of the psalms and their place in the constant prayer of the Church I am reminded that they are of course the prayer book of Jesus. An image that I love and gives me comfort is Mary teaching Jesus the Psalms. Short little book available through Veritas.

Church Collections

	10 Mar	17 Mar	24 Mar
1st Collection	€910	€905	€980
2nd Collection	€675	€630	€745
Family Offering	€815	€520	€705

To Be Raffled

Four Baskets
With All Kinds of Everything
Tickets Available After All the Masses This Weekend
Raffle will take place in the Parish Centre
On Tuesday April 9.

Proceeds go to the Parish

St. Vincent De Paul

Monthly Collection for March
will be taken up this weekend

Parish Centre or Sacristy:

Phone: 626 56 95

Monday to Friday 10.00am to 1.00pm

MASS TIMES

Weekends	Weekdays:
Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30	Mon, Thur, Fri: 10.00
Sunday: 09.00,10.30,12.00	Wed 7.00pm
Tuesday: 10.00 Prayer Service	

EASTER PROGRAM

MONDAY **APRIL 15**
RECONCILIATION SERVICE 7.30 PM

HOLY THURSDAY **APRIL 18**
MORNING PRAYER 10.00 AM

MASS OF THE LORDS SUPPER
WITH THE WASHING OF THE FEET 8.00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY **APRIL 19**
MORNING PRAYER 10.00 AM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 12 NOON

WAY OF THE CROSS
GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY 3.00 PM

**BEGINNING IN THE PEACE GARDEN
REMEMBERING ALL WHO HAVE DIED
THROUGH SUICIDE OR ADDICTION**

TAIZE STYLE
PRAYER ROUND THE CROSS 7.30 PM

HOLY SATURDAY **APRIL 20**
MORNING PRAYER 10.00 AM

SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL 9.00 PM

MONDAY **APRIL 22**
MASS 10.00 AM

TUESDAY **APRIL 23**
NO MORNING PRAYER CHURCH CLOSED

WEDNESDAY **APRIL 24**
NO EVENING MASS CHURCH CLOSED

PARISH CENTRE CLOSED **APRIL 22, 23, 24**

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Tuesday 20th August - Tuesday 27th August⁴

4-Star Hotel Solitude

7 Nights Full Board €800

Single room supplement €252 (subject to availability).

Accompanied by Spiritual Director

Fr. Joe McDonald, St. Matthew's

PLEASE NOTE IT IS POSSIBLE

TO PAY THE COST BY INSTALLMENTS

Contact Eddie Teeling @ 0868063625

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	08/04	Jn 8: 12-20	'I am the light of the world'
Tue	09/04	Jn 8: 21-30	'They failed to understand that he was talking about the Father'
Wed	10/04	Jn 8: 31-42	'If you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples'
Thu	11/04	Jn 8: 51-59	'I tell you most solemnly before Abraham ever was, I Am'
Fri	12/04	Jn 10: 31-42	'Many people who came to him there said, 'John gave no signs, but all he said about this man was true'; and many of them believed in him'
Sat	13/04	Jn 11: 45-56	'From that day they were determined to kill him'.

