



Rumblings from the Bunker

MARY- THE SECRET WEAPON!

**Bring flow'rs of the rarest,
From garden and woodland
And hillside and vale.....
.....How truly we love thee,
How dark without Mary
Life's journey would be.**

(Bring Flowers of the Rarest, Mary E. Walsh)



Even on some of the more secular of radio stations the first day of May saw the playing of this beautiful old song, 'Queen of the May' or more accurately 'Bring Flowers of the Rarest'. It is a well established annual ritual with one particular program playing various versions of this song throughout this month. As Ireland is rapidly becoming more secular I was watching out for this, a little fearful that it may be absent. Thankfully not. Perhaps people's understanding of the actual meaning is not what was intended. I heard a man on the radio say that it was a song to welcome the arrival of spring and hope. I guess one might argue that he was half right. It is full of hope.

However that hope is rooted in Mary the Mother of Jesus. 'How dark without Mary Life's journey would be' places Mary at the center of our lives and the source of our hope. I find myself once again as we begin the month of May, and against the backdrop of this beautiful song and indeed many other very moving Marian hymns such as O Mary of Graces, I'll Sing a Hymn to Mary, and of course the very special Salve Regina, asking myself about the role of Mary in our lives.

Perhaps to begin with the most obvious type of relationship with Mary, in that it is the most common, and that is where we are engaged in Marian Devotion. It is important to be respectful of this as it is the mainstay for many of faith. This will often be rooted in praying the rosary. This was a great prayer of my grandmother. She never studied theology or sacred scripture but through her constant praying the rosary she knew both theology and scripture.

As is the case with any prayer, from the shortest of aspirations to the great prayer that is the Mass itself, we can pray them as rote, absentmindedly rhyming it off or of course we can pray with whole hearted engagement, or indeed with a myriad of degrees of involvement in between. In my grandmothers case I feel her dedication to the rosary resulted in her having a good sense of Mary in her life.

In my experience of Marian Devotion I think I would have a number of concerns. I would be worried that at times it can remain at a superficial level, concentrating on saying prayers such as rosaries or litanies, and not really internalizing what is involved. The great danger with Marian Devotion is that it slides into the realm of fantasy. This is where there develops a fixation with the paranormal. The moving statues craze could be an example of this.

We as Catholics need to be very clear about this. We do not pray to statues. We do not worship statues. Actually it is more serious than that. We do not worship Mary. We worship God and God alone. Giving Mary profound respect and asking her to intercede for us is a different thing entirely. This is not only appropriate but desirable.

So what, for me, constitutes a healthy relationship with Mary?

I believe we will not go wrong if we open ourselves up to an encounter with Mary in the Gospels. Here we see Mary obedient. Mary fearful, but Mary courageous. We see Mary filled with joy and we see Mary heartbroken. Very importantly we see Mary given to us by Jesus and we see ourselves given to Mary. Whilst I respect the devotional, oral prayer aspect of having Mary in our lives, including the benefit of a nice statue, in my relationship with Mary I want something else.

I want to develop my relationship with Mary as I encounter her in the Gospels. When I do this I encounter her gentleness and Peace. I encounter her strength and her protection. I know she loves me. She loves me as a mother. She is my great weapon against darkness. My greatest refuge. What she wants of me is that I know her Son. Her joy is to lead me to him.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mary Julie Butterly	Dooley Family	Colette Lacey
Seamus Matthews	McCann Family	Elizabeth O'Neill
John O'Neill	Pat O'Neill	Noel Sheedy

Recent Funerals

Sarah Butler	Vera Dixon	Sadie Gorman
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FAITH MOMENT

From ancient times to the present day, Catholics honor the unique role of Mary, the woman chosen to be the Mother of our Redeemer, with a special reverence and devotion. We do not adore or worship Mary; adoration and worship is given only to God, to Jesus Christ and to the Holy Spirit. We venerate her singular example and prayerfully request her intercession for us.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

BEFRIENDING SILENCE

(Discovering the Gifts of Cistercian Spirituality)

CARL MC COLMAN

AVE MARIA PRESS, NOTRE DAME, INDIANA. 2015. Pp 181

This book does what I would have thought was more or less impossible. It successfully bridges the rarified, sacred and beautiful life of the Cistercian or Trappist with the busy life of married and single lay people. The author does this in a relaxed conversational style. I felt I was in safe hands. I was warmed by the authoritative and yet light manner that I encountered giants from ancient times such as Bernard of Clairvaux or more modern spiritual companions such as Merton or latterly Thomas Keating. This makes Cistercian spirituality possible for Christian lay folk.

SPECIAL DATES IN MAY

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR BOYS

SUNDAY MAY 12TH @ 12 noon

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR GIRLS

SUNDAY MAY 26TH @ 12 noon

CONFIRMATION FOR BOYS

TUESDAY MAY 14TH @ 11.00am

CONFIRMATION FOR GIRLS

THURSDAY MAY 16TH @ 11.00am

Self-Help Africa

Dedicated to ending hunger
and poverty in rural Africa
Church Gate Collection
after all the Masses Next Sunday

MASS TIMES

Weekends

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30

Sunday: 09.00,10.30,12.00

Tuesday: Prayer Service 10.00

Weekdays:

Mon, Thur, Fri: 10.00

Wed: 7.00pm

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Special Collection

A Collection for the support of Dublin diocesan students preparing for Ordination to the Priesthood. Will be taken up this weekend at all the Masses. It will replace the Share Collection.

RONCALLI REFORM

The Roncalli Reform, founded last October by Fr Joe, is a group dedicated to the ongoing reform of the Church. The key elements are: Contemplative Prayer, Discussion, Fellowship and Prophetic Action.

**It's next meeting takes place
Next Thursday May 30 7 - 9pm
in St. Matthews. All Welcome.**

Church Collections

	28 Apr	St Vincent DePaul
1st Collection	€775	Monthly Collection for April
2nd Collection	€690	€290
Family Offering	€1275 (2 Weeks)	

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Tuesday 20 - 27 August

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	13/05	Jn 10: 1-10	OUR LADY OF FATIMA 'When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice'
Tue	14/05	Jn 15: 9-17	ST. MATTHIAS 'I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.'
Wed	15/05	Jn 12: 44-50	'And therefore what the Father has told me is what I speak.'
Thu	16/05	Jn 13: 16-20	ST. BRENDAN 'Whoever welcomes the one I send welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me'.
Fri	17/05	Jn 14: 1-6	'Do not let your hearts be troubled....'
Sat	18/05	Jn 14: 7-14	'To have seen me is to have seen the Father'....

