



# Rumblings from the Bunker

## DEANO - THE BALLYFERMOT PROPHET

At times there can be a little confusion about what a prophet is. The most common mistake is to say that they are people who foretell the future. Now, there can of course be an element of that. However to reduce a prophet, or indeed a prophetess, to that is to miss something very important. One of the key things about a prophet is that they challenge us. The truth is the prophet will make us uncomfortable.

The reason why we are uncomfortable of course is because the words of the prophet touch a raw nerve. Somewhere deep down we know what the prophet is saying is true. Even though we may deny this, in fact we may be angry with them for speaking the truth, yet we know they are highlighting for us something true that we would prefer not to be reminded of.

In the Old Testament prophets often paid with their lives for courageously speaking the unpalatable truth. Amos was fearless in calling the wealthy to task about the poor, the widow, and the orphan in their midst. Similarly Hosea spoke beautifully about love and fidelity amidst promiscuity. By the time we get to the New Testament and the time of Jesus both the prophetic message, and the cost of promoting it, are equally clear.

In John the Baptist we have the one who is sometimes called the 'last of the prophets'. John is utterly uncompromising in his message that 'the kingdom of God is close at hand'. Now whatever about hearing this message, what many found difficult to stomach was the implication of the kingdom's proximity. John's message was a message of repentance. 'Repent, turn away from sin!' Of course it was and indeed remains one thing to hear this in a general theoretical way but quite another to begin applying it to our lives. John was fearless in the delivery of this message including targeting the dysfunctional and sexually immoral behavior of the royal family. Given this backdrop perhaps his death by beheading is not such a shock.

I think of the prophet, woman or man, as a living signpost pointing us in the right direction. Almost like a big neon light flashing in the darkness. It's like the prophets are the wake up call. In all the mess, and all the distractions and all the different paths we can take in life the prophet is just up ahead saying 'trust me, don't mind those other paths, the one to happiness is this way'.

Part of the prophet's role is to challenge things we do that are not good. Not good for ourselves and not good for others. Something happened to me just last week here in Ballyfermot that was a bit like that.

I had just come out of Iceland, the supermarket, and I was placing some of the goods I had bought in the boot of the car, when I heard this loud shout, 'Fr. Joe, I'm not speaking to you anymore!' I wasn't quite sure where it came from and then it came again, 'Fr Joe you should know better!' This time I was able to place it better. The shout was coming from a little boy who was across the road. I knew him to see and remembered his name as Denis, though I also knew he was known as Deano, a name he much preferred. I turned my hands upward and shrugged as if to ask him, 'what are you on about?' However Deano was on a roll and he shouted 'You should know better, Fr Joe, you are a priest!' I could contain myself no longer and walked over to him and said 'what are you talking about?' To which he replied: 'All that plastic, all those plastic bottles of water you were putting in the boot of your car, it's not on! Do you not know that plastic is the big enemy?'

Of course our young prophet Deano, from Ballyfermot, was right. He was spot on. We had a long conversation sitting on his wall and I enjoyed the boiled cake and mug of tea his mother brought out to us. She told me there's not much he doesn't know about the environment and indeed that was obvious enough to me in both his knowledge but particularly his passion. To me it's a great day in our faith community when a ten year old prophet is calling out the Parish Priest on such an important issue as care of the earth. It's a good sign. It's a sign of hope. Thank God for prophets like Deano!

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Ciss Carroll	Christine Carroll	Alice Connolly
Bridget Dineen	Josephine Long	Thomas Long
Thomas Meeks	Alice Moody	Paddy Mullin
Rose Mullin	Elizabeth Murray	Finola Murray
Patrick Murray	Ann O'Connor	Monica O'Connor
Patrick O'Connor	Rose O'Connor	O'Connor Family
John Reynolds	Tyrell Family	

**Recent Funerals:**

Noel Doyle	Zoe Flynn	Kathleen Patchell
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**FAITH MOMENT**

The right to exercise our freedom in moral and religious matters is an inalienable requirement of the dignity of the human person. Authentic freedom is not freedom *from* personal responsibility, but freedom *for* love of God and neighbour.

**BOOK OF THE WEEK**

**PEOPLE OF GOD'S MERCY**  
**What 14 figures from Scripture**  
**Reveal about Divine Compassion**  
**MARCI ALBORGHETTI**

TWENTY-THIRD PUBLICATIONS, NEW LONDON CT USA 2016. Pp 128

A very readable book giving a very accessible but solid grounding in God's merciful love. Written in short chapters this is a very engaging read. We meet giants of both the Old and New Testaments and each time encounter God's love and compassion in a new and fresh way. The final chapter about the unknown girl with the prophetic spirit is intriguing. The structure of the text is very helpful giving the story first followed by reflective discourse and questions.



**nurtureafrica**  
Empowering Vulnerable Children

**Nurture Africa**  
**Church Gate Collection**  
**This Weekend after all the Masses**

Founded in 2003 by Irishman Brian Iredale, Nurture Africa (formerly A-Z Children's Charity) focused upon providing healthcare and education to the most vulnerable children within the communities within with the organisation operated. Nurture Africa was registered as an International NGO in 2005 and is supported by Irish Aid. Nurture Africa provides access to healthcare (within its own purpose built health centre), education, economic empowerment and child rights projects. Today in Uganda, Nurture Africa is sustaining the employment over 60 Ugandan staff members across all departments.

**MASS TIMES**

<b>Weekends</b>	<b>Weekdays:</b>
<b>Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30</b>	<b>Mon, Thur, Fri: 10.00</b>
<b>Sunday: 09.00,10.30,12.00</b>	
<b>Tuesday: No Prayer Service until September</b>	
<b>No Mass on Wednesday evenings</b>	
<b>during the month of July</b>	

**Concert in Aid of Hospice Harold's Cross**  
**And a Donation to St. Matthew's**  
 In St. Matthew's Church  
 Friday 22nd November  
 @ 8.00pm: Tickets €15.  
 For more information contact  
 Ken @ 0862365288

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

**St. Vincent De Paul**  
 Monthly Collection  
 Amounted to: €390  
 Thank You



**SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS**

**An SMA priest will visit the parish on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th July to speak at all the masses about the work of the SMA Fathers.**

The Society of African Missions (SMA Fathers) was founded in France in 1856 and when it was established in Ireland in 1878 it was the first exclusively missionary congregation to send out missionaries from Ireland. The main mission of the SMA is in Africa where members work in 17 countries. Today, there are about 800 members and about 300 seminarians preparing to be missionaries. The SMA asks for the support of prayers for the success of its missionary works. Our greatest need is funds to educate our seminarians and to continue the work of our priests among some of the poorest people on earth.

**GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon	22/07	<b>Jn 20: 1-2, 11-18</b>	<b>ST. MARY MAGDALENE</b> 'It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb.'
Tue	23/07	<b>Jn 15: 1-8</b>	<b>ST. BRIDGET OF SWEDEN, RELIGIOUS, PATRON OF EUROPE</b> 'Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.'
Wed	24/07	<b>Mt. 13: 1-9</b>	<b>ST. DECLAN, BISHOP</b> 'That same day, Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there.'
Thu	25/07	<b>Mt. 20: 20-28</b>	<b>ST. JAMES, APOSTLE</b> 'Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?'
Fri	26/07	<b>Mt. 13: 18-23</b>	<b>Ss JOACHIM and ANNE, PARENTS of BVM</b> 'the one who received the seed in rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it; this is the person who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'
Sat	27/07	<b>Mt. 13: 24-30</b>	'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.'