



Rumblings from the Bunker

FOR ME YOU WILL ALWAYS BE ST. MATTHEW'S!

I guess for some people it was a good example of me making a big deal out of nothing. In some ways I was a bit surprised at myself. Not mind you, that I made a big deal out of something that many would think was quite trivial, no, more that I reacted to something that was well established for years. I think the first time I saw the phrase 'Ballyfermot Upper,' it did not have a big impact on me. At some point though I remember thinking it was strange to use it as a title for the parish. Before long it was explained to me that the term 'Ballyfermot Upper' was a convenient way of distinguishing between us, here in our parish, and the parish down at the roundabout, Our Lady of the Assumption, sometimes referred to as 'Lower Ballyfermot'.

I think what happened was, the more I explored St. Matthew, the more I was drawn to him. I quickly realised that the patron of our Parish was someone we should get to know. Many parishes do not have such a proud boast as we have. Our patron, Matthew was not only one of the chosen twelve, an apostle, but is also one of the four evangelists, that is one of the four gospel writers. There's a fair bit there to be proud of! Somehow in my mind, and maybe more in my soul, the richness of Matthew began to jar with the term 'Ballyfermot Upper!' The latter sounding more to me like the description of a district, or a quarter, or worse still an electoral ward!

Corny as it may seem it was almost as if Matthew was saying to me, 'come on, is there any chance, Ballyfermot Upper? I want to take my task as patron of this parish seriously.' Anyway somewhere in there I resolved that I would not use the term myself nor would I encourage others in their use of it. For me, early on in my time here I fixed on the term, 'the faith community of St. Matthew's.'

I have been reflecting on Matthew in recent days and asking myself what is it about him that has drawn me closer over these past seven years? Of course I am intrigued as to what it would have been like to have been one of the twelve. Imagine walking with Jesus. Talking with him. Eating with him. Hearing his laugh. What was it like to see the smile of Jesus?

Sometimes I find myself wondering what was it like to be involved in the making of the Gospel of Matthew? I mean from the very beginning before there was a word written. I mean back when they were telling the precious stories and sayings of Jesus. I mean when there were eyewitnesses to the actions of Jesus. Eyewitnesses, first hand witnesses to his healing power, to his saving action. How amazing was it to see and hear Jesus himself speak of his Father and of the kingdom? Some of these witnesses gathered around Matthew. The Matthean Community.

Now wonderful as all that is, it was more than this that drew me closer to Matthew. For me I am always returning to both the call and conversion of Matthew. It is difficult to separate them. What was it in Jesus that attracted Matthew? Matthew was at work. He had a good, if not popular, job as a tax collector. Had he already heard of Jesus? To what degree was he ripe for the call of Jesus? Had he guilt or shame? Was it not more that he had dreams? Was he broken? By monotony or worse? At his going away party, especially in those who were his guests, we get a sense of Matthew's life. Was it very materialistic? Superficial?

Yes I am inspired by Matthew. I want to be open to change, to conversion. I want to be open to the new. I hope I will let the Lord rouse me from the slumber of cosiness. I hope the Holy Spirit will breathe the courage and wisdom into my life to move me from complacency to gospel adventure.

Thanks to all of you who over the past seven years have been part of the Faith Community of St. Matthew. Thanks for your desire to know Jesus. Your desire for conversion. Your openness to God. Yes whatever about being referred to in the literature as 'Ballyfermot Upper,'

You will always be the faith community of St. Matthew to me, and

I am proud to have lived among you as priest yes, but

I hope also as brother and friend.

MASS INTENTIONS

Karen Fitzsimons Marie Fitzsimons Jummy Gray
Colm Voyles

Recent Funeral
Margaret Smith

MASS TIMES

Weekends **Weekdays:**
Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30 **Mon, Thur, Fri: 10.00**
Sunday: 09.00,10.30,12.00

BOOK OF THE WEEK

HEALING IN THE SPIRIT

Inner Healing and Deliverance in Today's Church
JIM MC MANUS C.Ss.R.

Darton Longman and Todd London. 1994. Pp 150
The truth is we all want healing or at least we all need healing. In the Catholic Church we tend to see healing as rooted in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which of course it is. It is however broader than this. We are also healed through prayer, the Word of God and the sacraments. The author was the Redemptorist Provincial in the UK and is a very respected leader of retreats and parish missions. I was particularly taken by his treatment of the five major barriers to receiving inner peace and healing. I feel you will be too.

Concert in Aid of:
The 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

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.

RONCALLI
RONCALLI, (named after Pope John XXIII, formerly Angelo Roncalli) is the name of the new venture founded by Fr. Joe last autumn. It is dedicated to reform and renewal in the Irish Church. For anyone interested, the next meeting is:

Friday October 11 Feast of St. John XXIII
In the Parish of St. Patrick & St. Brigid
Celbridge & Straffan

Details to follow
THERE IS A NEW WEBSITE FOR THE RONCALLI COMMUNITY PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION. PLEASE BE PATIENT AS AT PRESENT IT IS JUST BARE BONES AND WILL TAKE TIME. DO KEEP AN EYE ON IT THOUGH.
THE ADDRESS IS: roncalli.community

ACTIV 8
8 practical sessions to help you share your faith with others
If this course interests you please come to the **ENQUIRY EVENING on the 4th SEPTEMBER at CLONLIFFE for 7.30pm**, where there will be a presentation about it
See the Notice Board at the Main Door for details

Vincentian Family Pilgrimage
Knock Shrine
Saturday September 14 2019
Bus Leaving St. Matthew's @ 8.00am
€20 per person (Bus Only)
One Stop for Meal/Refreshments each way
Book in **Parish Centre** after Weekday Masses or
Phone 6265695 (10.00am to 1.00pm weekdays)

Fr Joe will say goodbye at all the Masses this weekend, **August 17th/18th**

There will be a special Mass on
Thursday 29th August
at 7.30 pm here in St. Matthew's:

as we bid farewell to our Parish Priest Fr. Joe McDonald. As you know Fr. Joe has been appointed Parish Priest in the Parish of St. Patrick & St. Brigid, Celbridge & Straffan. Our farewell Mass, which has the theme of Thanksgiving and Mission, will begin at 7.30pm, followed by a light supper. All Welcome

Church Collections

	4 Aug	11 Aug
1st Collection	810	620
2nd Collection	640	623
Family Offering	495	620

Parish Centre or Sacristy:
Phone: 6 26 56 95
Monday to Friday
10.00am to 1.00pm

St. Vincent De Paul
Monthly Collection
After all the Masses
This Weekend

Migraine Association of Ireland
The Migraine Association is delighted to present a workshop on Migraine in the Workplace! The event will take place on
Thursday 12th of September
in the Grand Canal Hotel, Dublin 4 from 7pm - 9pm
FREE Tickets are available
Phone: 01 894 1280/1281 for details

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon 26/08 **Mt 23: 13-22** 'Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You who shut up the kingdom of heaven in men's faces, neither going in yourselves nor allowing others to go in who want to'.
Tue 27/08 **Mt 23: 23-26 ST. MONICA** 'Clean the inside of cup and dish first so that the outside may become clean as well.'
Wed 28/08 **Mt 23: 27-32 ST. AUGUSTINE, Bishop, Doctor of the Church** 'You appear to people from the outside like good honest men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness'.
Thu 29/08 **Mk 6: 17-29 THE PASSION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST** 'When he had heard him speak he was greatly perplexed, and yet he liked to listen to him'.
Fri 30/08 **Mt 25: 1-13 ST. FIACRE, Monk** 'So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'
Sat 31/08 **Mt 25: 14-30** 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness.'