



# Rumblings from the Bunker

## FUNERALS IN ST. MATTHEWS

A funeral in our church is a very important and special occasion. Yes of course it is also a sad occasion, sometimes painfully so. It is an opportunity for us, as a faith community, to step in beside those who are in grief, sometimes plunged suddenly into this awful experience, and attempt to walk beside them in prayerful solidarity. For us here in St. Matthews from the initial point of contact from the undertaker there are three distinct stages regarding the final saying goodbye to our loved ones: the preparation, the funeral itself, and contact between the bereaved family and the parish afterwards.

The preparation period takes place in the parish center as opposed to the family home as the latter can prove busy whereas the center allows us to have an hour, or an hour and a half uninterrupted quality time. Ideally three or four people attend representing the family and the discussion is primarily about the loved one who has died. This is key to how the funeral will be celebrated. The areas of the person's life discussed will include: place of birth, family life, place of work, hobbies, interests, travel, music, television, music, pets, key characteristics, personality, spirituality and faith.

Whilst this sounds very comprehensive the funeral mass is not an opportunity to give a blow by blow account of the person's life. Rather I will try to reflect a little on the person's life through the lens of the gospel, at all time's mindful that the beauty of the Catholic funeral liturgy is rooted in God's mercy and the hope of eternal life. The tenor of course is the honor and dignity of the person, the comfort of the broken-hearted within a respectful celebration of the greatest prayer on earth, namely the Mass. This preparation period will also include a discussion of how family might be involved, through the readings, prayers and bringing up the gifts. It is important to say that there are only two 'gifts' at Mass namely the bread and wine that through the power of the Holy Spirit become Christ present amongst us. The necessary gifts are sometimes confused with the unnecessary symbols.

It might be helpful to address two areas of potential conflict: what has become known as 'symbols' and a family member or friend speaking. I try to discourage both, though I hasten to add if the family feels strongly on either of these we usually find an acceptable compromise. I am opposed to the symbols because in my view they are often tacky, including the person's teeth, alcohol, betting docket, lotto tickets, cigarettes tobacco and so on. Whilst I firmly believe we do not need any of these symbols from time to time a family suggests something which is difficult to argue with, a gentleman's guitar, a little cardigan or blanket the lady crocheted, or a collage of family photos. With regard to a family member speaking, again my concern is around how this is done. Most often a person thinks they will be able to do it, but in fact it quickly proves to much and they fall apart. Quite often the difficulty is more practical and they simply cannot be heard. In a very small number of instances the contribution is inappropriate. Most of us would surely agree that bad language and sexual innuendo has no place in God's house.

This preparation is completed with a family member phoning me the night before the funeral with the names of those taking part in the ceremony. Sr Anne Marie, our Parish Sister, or another member of our funeral team, is available to lead short prayers with the family the evening before. At this point I have spent time on the notes, usually in the Park, corny as it may sound, walking with the deceased person in my heart. After the phone call with the names I spend a period of prayer asking the Holy Spirit to help me celebrate the funeral Mass worthily.

Whilst the music for the Mass is of course religious there is scope for one secular or non religious song at the end. This is almost like an anthem for the person as we leave the Church. It is highly preferable that this is sung live by the singer as opposed to a pre-recorded version.

Where possible a priest or another member of the funeral team will conduct a short prayer at the graveside or in the crematorium. This is a relaxed place for non religious music and a family member speaking. Families are welcome to organize a months mind Mass and will be invited to attend our special Mass for the Dead in November. Throughout the year here in St. Matthew's we pray for the eternal rest of our beloved dead and the comfort of those in grief.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Vincent Donohoe	Owen Feary	John Kennedy
Veronica Kennedy	Carmel Grainger	Frank Grainger
Paddy Grainger	Robert Grainger	Sheila Grainger
George Malone	Finola Murray	

**Recent Funerals:**  
 Donal O'Leary      Martin O'Reilly

**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: Prayer Service 10.00</b>	
<b><u>There will be no Mass on Wednesday evenings during the month of July</u></b>	

**FAITH MOMENT**

The Holy Spirit bestows seven gifts - wisdom, understanding, right judgement, courage, knowledge, reverence and wonder and awe in God's presence - to assist us in our Christian life and witness. The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity.

**SPECIAL VISITORS**

We are delighted that Kilinney Gospel Choir will be singing at the 6.30 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday July 6th here in St. Matthew's. We are looking forward very much to this occasion.

**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

**BOOK OF THE WEEK**

**I WILL SEE YOU IN HEAVEN  
 BY FRIAR JACK WINTZ.**

PARACLETE PRESS. MASSACHUSETTS. 2010. Pp 102

This is a very self indulgent choice of book by me. It is also an unashamed shout out to pet lovers everywhere. It is a beautiful book. It is especially for those of us who have loved and lost a pet. I received this recently on the death of my much loved dog Luna, from a friend who herself lost a very special cat. In this book Friar Jack wants us to know that the Bible gives us many clues that we will be with our pets in heaven for eternity. 'Even if you have trouble seeing that dogs such as these have souls, I hope that you will at least agree that they have received amazing gifts from our Creator.'

**St. Vincent DePaul**  
 Church Gate Collection  
 This Sunday

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

**Church Collections**  
**19 June**  
 1st Collection €750  
 2nd Collection €550  
 Family Offering €550

**Sunflower Day Hospice**  
 Amount Collected: €1144.31  
 A very big thanks  
 to all who contributed

**MALEs (Ireland) - Men As Learners And Elders**

The brainchild of Fr Richard Rohr, it's been gaining some momentum in this part of the world of late. You can check out our Irish website at <http://www.malejourney.ie>.

From 24-28 July 2019, a significant gathering of men will converge in Kiltegan, Co Wicklow, for what has come to be known as the Men's Rites of Passage. "What on earth is that all about?" I hear you ask. The men's Rites of Passage (MRP) is a five-day, deeply soulful and experiential programme, devised mainly by the U.S. author, spiritual writer, preacher and Franciscan friar, Fr Richard Rohr, OFM, back in 2004, that builds on the classic patterns of male initiation through profound rituals and teachings. Each day includes major teachings from the Wisdom Traditions central to masculine spirituality, quiet time for reflection and opportunities to share stories and experiences with other men in the context of small groups.

How about you? If you are a man and would like to take a significant step along the journey to being a more authentic man, why not go to the website <http://www.malejourney.ie> where you can download the application form? You won't regret it.



**Peter's Pence Collection  
 This Sunday  
 at all the Masses  
 It will be taken up in place  
 of the Share Collection**



**BARNARDOS NATIONAL COLLECTION DAY  
 FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019  
 TEAM LEADERS/VOLUNTEERS**

We need **you** on **Friday 13th September 2019** to help with organised bag packs and on-street collections in communities across the country.

This is a fun opportunity to take part in a very worthy cause. Not only will you be giving back to the community, you will also get the opportunity to meet people, make new friends, and establish new networks. By generously volunteering your time you'll be helping change lives and create brighter futures for some of the most vulnerable children across Ireland.

Please contact us on (01) 7080418 or email [buckets@barnardos.ie](mailto:buckets@barnardos.ie)

**GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon 01/07	<b>Mt 8: 18-22</b>	<b>ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT</b> , Bishop/Martyr 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'
Tue 02/07	<b>Mt 8: 23-27</b>	'Why are you so frightened, you men of little faith?'
Wed 03/07	<b>Jn 20: 24-29</b>	<b>ST. THOMAS</b> , Apostle 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.'
Thu 04/07	<b>Mt 9: 1-8</b>	'Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, 'Courage, my child, your sins are forgiven.'
Fri 05/07	<b>Mt 9: 9-13</b>	'And indeed I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners.'
Sat 06/07	<b>Mt 9: 14-17</b>	<b>ST. MARIA GORETTI</b> , Virgin/Martyr 'Nor do people put new wine into old wine skins; if they do, the skins burst, the wine runs out, and the skins are lost. No; they put new wine into fresh skins and both are preserved.'