



Rumblings from the Bunker

BEING A CATHOLIC TODAY

Recently I have heard people commenting on how hard it is to be a Catholic today and then following on from that some of them actually asked me for any advice I might have in that regard. In one way I am loath to offer advice as I feel it is easy to be seen as some sort of guru, which I am certainly not. Having said that perhaps it is important as a priest, who is supposed to be, in some way, a professional follower of Jesus, to share something around our common faith journey.

There is something in us that likes the neat or pithy little jingle of the three R's, or the one of your five a day, so here goes: The six 'C's for Catholics today:

Commitment, Courage, Christ, Church, Compassion and Comedy.

COMMITMENT: I think one of the big problems today is being lukewarm or picking and choosing what we like in our faith. I also think there is a fear of commitment. The reality is that whilst being committed to anyone or anything makes big demands it is far more desirable than being committed to nothing or no one. True commitment despite all its difficulties actually brings fulfillment and happiness.

COURAGE: Throughout history, both in the world, and within this country, it has at times required great courage to be a Catholic. My contention today is that we are entering a period that will demand greater courage than ever to be a practicing Catholic. I say this for two reasons: this courage will be required because of the growing hostility towards Catholicism, a hostility that I believe will increase, but also because of the impact of the state of the Church on personal faith. I am really speaking of courage as a gift of the Holy Spirit and something we as believers need to pray for.

CHRIST: This probably seems so obvious as to border on the silly. However I deliberately cite Christ as one of the core characteristics of being a Catholic today, because of my firm belief that we have moved away from him. I think this is often true even in our preaching. I think we as people of faith, need to discover afresh, or perhaps discover for the first time, the unique all consuming excitement of engaging in a unique personal relationship with both the historical Jesus of Nazareth and the living Risen Christ.

CHURCH: There is indeed a great abandonment of Church. Some of this we brought on ourselves, and indeed continue to do so. We are slow to learn. Moral relativism accompanies this turning our back on Church as does the decline of practice. One of my favorites as many of you know is 'well Father I am a very good Catholic I just don't go to Mass!' To which I reply: 'you are indeed a very good person, and may well be a good Christian but very good Catholic you are not. Very good Catholics go to Mass.' It has become trendy to bash the Church, as I say sometimes fairly, but increasingly, without fairness or justification. For me the Church remains central to my Catholic faith and whilst at times I am hurt by it, I am also indebted to it as the place where my soul is fed and continues to grow.

COMPASSION: One of the great dangers today as we try to find our way forward, or as has been said, 'as we try to steady the ship', is that we become rigid or inflexible. This is when a harshness can creep in. We have paid a high price for the message of fear that we preached with such gusto when in fact it was a message of love. If we lose the compassion of Christ we cease to be his followers and we cease to be his Church.

COMEDY: Perhaps the strangest, or most surprising of the characteristics listed here today. In my view this is crucial. When we lose our sense of humor we are in trouble. So often, we so called Church people, are seen as, if not actually a sour lot, then at least a boring lot! How easy it is to forget that we are called to be people of joy. Are people drawn to us because we are good fun, good company, bearers of good news, because they sense deep within us there is a joy that only the Lord can give?



FAITH MOMENT

The chief mysteries of Christ's life are his birth, the 'Paschal Mystery' of his sufferings and death on the Cross, and his victory over sin and death in the resurrection and ascension.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

**THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS WE PRAY
JOHN F. O' GRADY.**

PAULISTA PRESS. NEW YORK. 2008. Pp 110

You may recognize this little volume from its previous appearance in our Newsletter. It is in my view well worth a repeated recommendation. This is a beautiful collection of reflections for the special season of Lent. It is prayerful, Scripture based and easy to use by individuals or small groups. It concludes with the Easter Triduum. Valuable, reliable and inspiring Lenten resource.

Eucharistic Ministers

There will be a workshop for Eucharistic Ministers in our Parish Pastoral Centre
9.30am to 1.30pm on Saturday 6th April
given by Patricia Carroll
Office for Evangelisation and Ecumenism.

MASS INTENTIONS

Gerry Brennan	Teresa Canavan-Darcy	Billy Dunne
Esther James	Paul James	Patrick Jordan
Betty Kerin	Brendan Kerin	Ken Kerin
Jenny Mann	Thomas Mills	Gertrude Mulligan
Patrick Mulligan	Mary O'Connor	Michael O'Connor
Thomas Phelan	Donal Rock	Jennifer Tormey
Tyrrell Family		

Recently Funerals

Sadie Ellis Mary Foran

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

HOLY THURSDAY	APRIL 18TH
MORNING PRAYER	10 AM
MASS OF THE LORDS SUPPER WITH THE WASHING OF THE FEET	8 PM
GOOD FRIDAY	APRIL 19TH
MORNING PRAYER	10 AM
STATIONS OF THE CROSS	12 NOON
WAY OF THE CROSS GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY	3 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 20TH
MORNING PRAYER	10 AM
SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL	9 PM

Church Collections 10 Mar 1st Collection N/A 2nd Collection N/A Family Offering N/A	Church Gate Collection 30/31 March Ethiopia School Project
	St. Vincent De Paul Monthly Collection for March will be taken up on April 6/7

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 1/04	Jn 4: 43-54	'Your Son will live'
Tue 2/04	Jn 5: 1-3, 5-16	'Get up, pick up your sleeping-mat and walk'
Wed 3/04	Jn 5: 17-30	'My aim is to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me'
Thu 4/04	Jn 5: 31-47	'Besides, I know you too well: you have no love of God in you'
Fri 5/04	Jn 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30	'They would have arrested him then, but because his time had not yet come no one laid a hand on him'
Sat 6/04	Jn 7: 40-52	'Go into the matter and see for yourself: prophets do not come out of Galilee'

