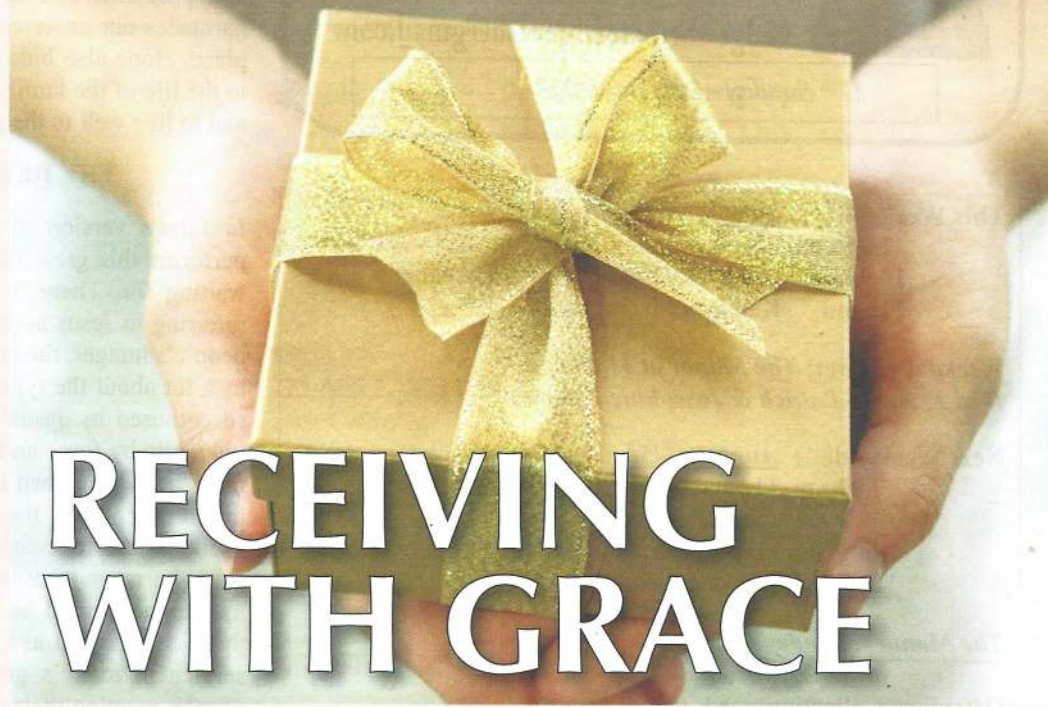


# Parish Newsletter

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 29 JULY 2018  
CYCLE B | ISSUE 35

I heard of one good Longford lady whose generosity was legendary. Somebody decided to try and do something nice for her in gratitude but she was having none of it. The frustrated giver then exclaimed, in probably the most Irish sentence ever: "Mary Ann you're a fierce woman to give – but you're a horrid mane (sic) receiver." It sounds better with a Midlands accent, especially pronouncing "mean" as "mane". The people impressed by the signs Jesus gave receive through his hands their most basic of needs – food.

I don't know about you, but I find it is easier to give than to receive, be it kindness or money. But it's hard to receive love, to receive forgiveness, to receive help, even to receive food. And yet sometimes when we are open to it, we can be very touched and warmed by the experience of receiving. I realise some harassed parent or grandparent faced with seemingly endless demands on them by family is possibly snorting at this "Nobody gives to me – I'm always the one." But it is possible that we don't give off the signals of being open to receive – is it not? So whatever it is that happens in our life, we lose a sense of control when we have to ask for help. It can be in a hospital when we have to receive the most intimate care from complete strangers and we



## RECEIVING WITH GRACE

find it really hard. Anything that makes us feel like we're losing our independence is tough. These can actually be moments of grace, when we let go of the control and feel our real needs come to the fore. That very poverty of ours can help us to receive and be fed and led to fullness. Sometimes when a person asks "Is there anything you need?" – saying "No" is almost like shutting a door in their face. Letting them give and you receive brings you into a relationship with each other.

I think in Western cultures we place so much emphasis on our independence and individuality that it gets way out of proportion. We hate the idea of dependence, and yet, in all honesty, we need each other, we are totally interdependent. It's not really about you or your needs, it's about something much

bigger. Our ancestors put it better "ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine" (we live in each other's shadow). At times we are called to receive with grace – it is a beautiful thing to allow an opportunity to someone who wants to give. It blesses both the giver and the receiver.

– Tom Cox



### THIS WEEK (30 JULY–5 AUGUST)

- 30 **Mon** St Peter Chrysologus, bishop and doctor
- 31 **Tue** St Ignatius of Loyola, priest
- 1 **Wed** St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop and doctor
- 2 **Thur** Ss Peter Eymard and Eusebius of Vercelli
- 3 **Fri** St Germanus of Auxerre, bishop
- 4 **Sat** St John Mary Vianney, priest
- 5 **Sun** 18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS



Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15  
Psalm 77:3-4, 23-25, 54  
Ephesians 4:17, 20-24  
John 6:24-35

### Reflection

When has Jesus recently taken the loaves of your life and multiplied them for others?

### Lesson

Jesus is the new food for people. He continues to replicate this sign every time the Eucharist is celebrated.

### Prayer

Lord, bless all the groups and individuals who work to feed the starving, the poor and the needy.