

Parish Newsletter

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 4 NOVEMBER 2018
CYCLE B | ISSUE 49

I didn't know my grandmother, but my brother-in-law found her funeral notice online. Well, it was a complete listing of who was in the choir, her priest son (my uncle) got full title and the expression of sympathy from his bishop was also read out. Without being unkind to the Ireland of 1957, it all came across as trying to make an impression.

Maybe we're not so different, just a little more subtle in how we approach making an impression and trying to get notice. Rule keeping that was so beloved of the Scribes and Pharisees of the time of Jesus is certainly not in vogue currently, but we have found other delights to distract us.

They tell of a newly cemented foot-path being unveiled in a small town. Cement takes time to "cure" or dry and come the day when the Mayor unveiled it to reveal it had the unmistakable tiny footprints of a barefoot toddling baby. It's still there, seemingly, and never fails to lift people's hearts. It gives people hope to continue.

Consciously or not, we all *must* leave our mark in life, footprints in a way but this time the mark is left in a different place – on the heart. A single loving act can grow forever



in the heart of another. Jesus did not separate the two commandments – he joined them. We have an immense power over each other for good or evil. Just as a single loving act can grow forever as a 'footprint' in the heart of the other – similarly a single act of arrogance can crush an already embittered soul. The choice is ours for the 'taking' or should I say for the 'giving'. A tender word of understanding and compassion may be your legacy or you could be remembered for a thoughtless gesture of indifference.

At funerals we all chat and make tea and remember the encounters we had with the deceased, in order, to capture something of their personality. What words would you write over your headstone? What words really matter? Surely the question is 'How much did

this person love?' Love is a fire, and fire must be harnessed before its powerful potential can do good. Where to begin in this great endeavour? Like all things the answer is local. For it is sometimes easier to love humanity as a whole than to love one's neighbour in particular.

– Tom Cox



THIS WEEK (5-11 NOVEMBER)

- 5 **Mon** Ss Elizabeth and Zechariah
- 6 **Tue** All the Saints of Ireland
- 7 **Wed** St Willibrord, bishop and missionary
- 8 **Thur** All Saints of Wales
- 9 **Fri** DED. OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME
- 10 **Sat** St Leo the Great, pope and doctor
- 11 **Sun** 32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS



1 Kings 17:10-16
Psalm 145:7-10
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Reflection

How far are you from the Kingdom of God?

Lesson

The love of God, neighbour, and self are intertwined. The person who hears, understands, and practices is 'not far from the kingdom of God'.

Prayer

Lord, help us to love you with all our heart, our soul, our mind and our strength. Amen.