

Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim



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Sunday, 11th October, 2020

Offertory Collection: Sun Sept Oct 4th - €1,150 - sincere thanks.

LEVEL 3 RESTRICTIONS - Unfortunately during the week the country was moved to Level 3 of the restrictions. This means that churches can only open for private prayer and not for public worship. Exceptions are weddings and funerals at which 25 people can attend.

There was an air of sadness among our daily Mass going congregation when this was announced during the week. Understandably people will miss their experience of prayer and community gathering.

As we go to print, the four Archbishops have asked the Government to allow churches to open for public worship. It remains to be seen whether they will be successful or nor in their plea. Hopefully before too very long we will be able to resume our religious services.

Since reopening at the end of June, there has been a wonderful collective effort to maintain good standards of hygiene and to meet best practise standards in our parish church.

Sincere thanks to all who have played a part: Parish Pastoral Council, Sacristans, Ushers, Volunteers cleaners. Your contribution to the running of the parish and your concern for the safety of all who attend is inspiring and deeply appreciated. While we are closed for public worship some people have volunteered to sanitise the church daily for the safety of those who come to pray privately.

'God our Father, we know that your will can never lead us where your grace cannot keep us. Be with all who carry heavy crosses this day and send them help in the care of their friends, so that the cross of your Son may be for them a signpost to hope. Amen.' - John J McCullough

'Trust is the greatest joy in our relationship with God. Whoever trusts in God has already covered the hardest part of the journey.....'

God, you are my God, I can count on you.' - Carlo Carretto

'Whenever you feel confused, bewildered, disillusioned, frightened, be childlike in your trust in God, present and beckoning you in the chaos. In trusting with your heart, it is as though you put your hand in his and let him lead you.'

- Gerard W. Hughes SJ

Daily Mass @ 10.00 a.m. is broadcast on the Cathedral Parish Website – www.longfordparish.com.

Sunday Masses are also broadcast at: Vigil 7.30 p.m.; 8.00 a.m., 10.00 a.m., 11.30 a.m. and 1.00 p.m.

• **Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel** •

There are two parables here that Matthew has joined together. Looking at the first one:

1. Scripture often speaks of the kingdom of God as a banquet. The image of people being at a meal where everyone is happy and welcome and where all hunger and thirst is satisfied gets across the idea that God loves, accepts and welcomes us and wants us to make that experience available to one another. Think of times in your life when you have had 'banquet' experiences and when you have felt accepted and loved?
2. The host enlists the help of his servants to invite people to the banquet. We are commissioned by the Lord to invite people to the banquet of the kingdom, to the fullness of life – as parents, teachers, friends, etc. What has it been like for you to play a part in leading others to a fuller life?
3. As in the parable last week there is a message about being alert to invitations that offer a fuller life and the danger of losing out if we neglect to respond to such invitations. Perhaps there have been opportunities offered to you that you missed, and now regret. Think also of the blessings you received because you seized the moment and took an opportunity that presented itself.
4. The second parable puts the focus on how we respond to invitations. Some invitations are ones that challenge us to change, to conversion, to put on a 'wedding garment'. What has been your experience of changing in response to an invitation you received? - John Byrne OSA (INTERCOM)

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A royal wedding

Today's gospel is difficult. Stories of judgement, weeping and gnashing of teeth just do not appeal to most people. We hear about a King whose invitations to his son's wedding banquet are repeatedly refused. In some instances his messengers are killed. One interpretation of this parable is that it is an allegory for the Jesus story, God's invitation to the Messianic banquet has been refused by those who are expected to embrace it. This banquet is therefore opened up to the unexpected, the Gentiles, the poor, those on the margins, the outcast. Going deeper again, we can hear that God wants to be in a relationship with each of us. We are all invited to this banquet. Yet, sometimes we exclude ourselves from being in fellowship with God. We may be hurt, suffering in a way that is preventing us from accepting the invitation to experience God's love and hospitality. We simply want to be left alone. Notice how the host in this parable persists. God does not give up on us. And what about that poor chap who did come but was not suitably dressed? If we accept the invitation we should be ready for change and not just change of an outer garment, real change. Because any real experience of God in our lives transforms us in some way or another. Parables were meant to shock those who heard them. The Gospel is meant to make us uncomfortable. Otherwise, what changes for us? We can sit around and listen to nice gentle passages that keep us comforted, or we can be challenged and moved to experiencing something real, something which requires us to show up and be transformed. It is up to us whether or not we accept this invitation.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People - ALONE Support Line is open 7 days a week for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Call 0818 222 024.

Wash your hands

Practice social distancing

Don't be afraid to ask for help

Check in on elderly neighbours

Be kind

- Fr Tom Healy -