

Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim



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Fifth Sunday of Lent - 21st March 2021

This Weekend Mar 21st

11.00 a.m. Ann Sheridan, Lisnagrish

Weekday Masses: St Mary's Church at 11.00 a.m.

Wed 24th Mar People of the Parish

Next Weekend: Mar 28th

11.00 a.m. Tony and Harry Devine

EDGEWORTHSTOWN PARISH WEBCAM

Parish webcam is accessible at:

churchtv.ie ⇒ Longford ⇒ Edgeworthstown

DAILY MASS / SUNDAY MASS - @ 11.00.

• The Deep End • 'We should like to see Jesus' •

Those poor Greeks. Did you notice that they never actually get to meet Jesus? At the start of today's gospel, some Greeks who are followers of Jesus come to Jerusalem. They are travellers, outsiders, and would like to meet Jesus in person. But when Philip and Andrew relay the request, Jesus begins to talk about how his 'hour' is coming. It is the last we hear of the Greeks, who disappear from the story altogether.

But they are important nonetheless. Firstly, they indicate that word about Jesus is spreading. More importantly, they prompt Jesus to reveal that, when his hour comes, he will draw 'all people' to himself. In the space of a few short verses, we go from a brief mention of a group of foreigners seeking Jesus, to Jesus making it clear that his saving mission is for all people, of all nations, both Jews and Gentiles – including these Greeks! There is no suggestion from Jesus that some groups are 'in' and others 'out'. All are included. All are invited. All are welcome.

I remember once hearing someone describe their home as a domestic church, a place of 'indiscriminate welcome'. As we continue our journey through Lent and soon into Holy Week, we listen carefully to these words of Jesus. He came for everyone. He wishes to draw all people to himself. Notwithstanding the current restrictions on gatherings and public worship, let us take this time to reflect on the world we would like to build when things open up again. Are we open to everyone, including 'outsiders'? Do our homes, parishes and communities radiate welcome, where all who enter experience God's love?

'For some, the good news is that there are insiders and outsiders and they are the insiders. For others, the good news is that there are no outsiders.' (Rachel Held Evans) (INTERCOM)

"Where you find no love, put in love, and you will draw out love" - St John of the Cross

"He who knows others is wise; He who knows himself is enlightened"

• Seeing Your Life Through the Lens of the Gospel •

1. The parable of the grain of wheat reminds us of a truth that any parent can testify to, namely that it is in dying to ourselves that we can give life to others. We will never be of benefit to others if we remain wrapped up in ourselves. In what ways has your dying to yourself brought life to another? How has the generous giving of another brought life to you?

2. Sometimes our emotions rebel at the thought of what lies ahead and we feel like praying Father, save me from this hour. Then a realisation may come for you as a parent, a teacher, a spouse, a friend: No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Recall times when you have accepted pain or hassle and been a source of life to others for doing so.

3. The story presents the death of Jesus as the moment of his glorification by God. We are also glorified when the grace of God enables us to give generously of ourselves. When have you experienced this in yourself or in another?

4. This voice has come for your sake and not for mine. The angel spoke that we might recognise the love being shown us by Jesus. Sometimes it requires the voice of another to draw our attention to love that is being offered to us. When was this your experience?
- John Byrne osa (INTERCOM)

SERENITY PRAYER

*God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.*

Amen.

Self-denial

"True self denial is the way in which we make room in our lives for the presence of God. We can do this in a number of ways; we can learn to become silent, listening to God; we can find solitude and become uncluttered in our desire for God; we can give him our attention, to be more deeply aware of how we need him; we can become more obedient to his will, surrendering ourselves to his rule".
- James Houston

REFLECTION

Each of us is like a grain of wheat planted by the Heavenly father.

That grain must die if it is to produce a harvest.

This dying to self is a gradual process which happens in very ordinary ways.

Every act of kindness involves dying to meanness.

Every act of love involves dying to selfishness.

Every act of humility involves dying to pride.

Every act of courage involves dying to cowardice.

Every act of forgiveness involves dying to bitterness.

FEAST of the ANNUNCIATION - Thurs Mar 25th - We honour Mary who followed the will of God all her life. She said yes to what God asked of her. Mary is a model of faith for all of us. We honour you, Mary, as the Mother of God and our mother too.

- Fr Tom Healy -