

## RATHOWEN

St Mary's Church, Rathowen

Twenty Third Sunday

Sun Sept 5<sup>th</sup> - 10.00 Morning Mass

[mcdcoath@gmail.com](mailto:mcdcoath@gmail.com)

### RATHOWEN / STREETE WEEEDAY MASSES

**Tues Sept 7<sup>th</sup>**

Boherquill - 9.30 a.m. - Adoration 10.00 - 10.30 a.m.

**Wed Sept 8<sup>th</sup>**

Rathowen - 9.30 a.m.

**Thurs Sept 9<sup>th</sup>**

Rathowen - 9.30 a.m. Adoration 10.00 - 10.30 a.m.

**Fri Sept 10<sup>th</sup>**

Boherquill - 8 p.m. - Adoration 7.00 - 8.00 p.m.

## STREETE

St Mary's Church, Boherquill

Twenty Third Sunday

Sun Sept 5<sup>th</sup> - Vigil Mass @ 8.00 p.m.

[www.streeteparish.ie](http://www.streeteparish.ie)

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#### A few words from Fr Pierre:

As I take up my new appointment as Adm in Street and Rathowen I look forward to getting to know each of you as the weeks go by. It is as important that the people of the parish also get to know me as much as I get to them. So if you meet me say hello. Together we will renew the faith life of the parish and spread the Good News. Feel free to contact me any time - the door is always open. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Fr Nigel for all his work in the parishes over the past 6 years and wish him God's blessing as he begins new mission in Mohill.

**First Friday Calls:** Fr Pierre will do the First Friday call this coming week. He will keep the same rota as Fr Nigel did.

#### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we continue to hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. In today's reading, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus' healing power, and in it we find clues about our understanding of sacrament. We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch. The Church continues to celebrate the sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with holy oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We are a sacramental people who believe that God's grace is given to us through these physical signs.

Some, however, see in this Gospel an image of the proclamation of the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles. The geographic references tell us that Jesus is journeying through Gentile territory. Jesus had previously visited this region and healed a person possessed by a demon. Jesus was already famous there, which explains why people brought the deaf man to him. The story that precedes this reading in Mark's Gospel sets the stage.

**Mass Intention:** James and Ellen Campbell and deceased family members.

Jesus encounters a Gentile, a Syrophenician woman who asks him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus engages her in a dialogue about not feeding to dogs the food intended for children. Jesus is struck by the woman's great faith when she replies that even dogs eat the food that falls from the table, and he heals her daughter immediately. The faith of this Greek woman compels Jesus to respond to her plea.

Mark shows that Jesus' own mission affirms the early Church's mission to the Gentiles. This was a significant issue to the early Christian community, which found that the good news of Jesus took root and spread quickly among the Gentiles. Yet there is an irony in the story of healing that Mark tells. Jesus gives the man the gift of speech, but then tells him not to use it. Jesus asks that the news of his healing power, which is evidence of his identity as the Messiah, not be spread. This is a recurring motif in Mark's Gospel and is sometimes called the "messianic secret."

#### Quotes from the saints:

**Poverty of Spirit.**

"Try to practice real poverty of spirit. Live completely detached from every consolation of sense, both within and without, to prevent falling into the trap of spiritual gluttony. It is necessary to live detached from your own pleasure, from your own way of thinking and feeling, so as not to fall prey to spiritual superficialism" - St Paul of the Cross.

#### Rosary -

The rosary continues this coming week in Rathowen grotto on Tue at 7pm and Street at 7pm all welcome.

- Fr Pierre Pepper - 087 - 6960542 -