COUNTER CULTURE "GERONIMOS"

In our "Advent Faith Development" the issue of being "counter cultural" came up in our discussion of a clip of the Catholicism DVD series we had watched the previous week. It so happened that I got an article on that subject by George Weigel, the American theologian and biographer of Pope John Paul 11. Weigel's presentation was on the state of faith and culture in contemporary civilisation particularly America and Europe. The context of what he wrote provoked a lively discussion among the participants of our own "faith development" group. People were struck by the way George Weigel presented his arguments for Christian vision of life. They were persuasive, articulate and given in a context of shedding light rather than heat on controversial subjects. Our parishioners were struck by the need to have someone present a similar argument in a convincing and respectful manner in our situation here in Ireland. If there is anything that gets people going in faith discussions and animates them it is the issue of being counter cultural. Fortunately we do have people in Ireland of the calibre of George Weigal and ironically it is two journalists who are leading the posse, John Waters and David Quinn. David Quinn gave a presentation on the state of "faith and culture in Ireland today" on 24th October on behalf of the Iona Institute. The talks were remarkably similar with Weigal focussing generally on the situation in the west and Quinn focusing specifically on the situation in Ireland.

We do not live in a police state and there is no overt persecution of Christians. We are allowed to practice our faith but only in a little box in the public square which is reserved for the political and cultural elite to roam as they please in the shaping of the future.

Quinn likens it to the situation of Native Americans when they too were boxed into their reservations by the American Government. "Christians have to be modern day Geronimos and break out of the reservation to roam the public square with our vision of the value of our faith". We can make a start by doing the most counter cultural thing of all – regular attendance at Mass. It is here we power up to have the courage to speak, write and act out our faith in a persuasive and articulate manner.

Fr. Padraig

ALL IRELAND FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS TO PLAY IN CLONDALKIN NYE

The All Ireland Football Champions and Leinster Hurling Champions are coming to



Clondalkin! Jim Gavin's Dublin Senior Footballers and Anthony Daly's Dublin Senior Hurlers will play in the annual Dubs Stars challenge at Round Tower GAA Club's new

development at Monastery Road on New Year's Eve, Tuesday 31st December. They will play against teams that feature the best players in Dublin club football and hurling over the past year. This is an excellent opportunity to watch GAA heroes up close and welcome these very successful teams! The Hurling match will throw-in at 5pm and the Football match at 7pm. All are welcome and it promises to be an excellent evening of sporting entertainment. Admission is €10 for adult, €5 for student/OAP, and free for children under 16. Visit www.roundtower.ie for further information.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Notices and submissions for the Newsletter must be received before 10.30am on **WEDNESDAY** morning to be considered for inclusion into that week's edition. Envelopes marked "**PARISH NEWSLETTER**" should be left into the Sacristy or Parish Office.

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

Village

Office/Sacristy 459 3520

Fr Damian Farnon Adm St Cecilla's 459 2665

Fr Pádraig O'Sullivan CC St Columba's 464 0441

Deacon Seamus McEntee St Mary's 459 2311

Clonburris

Fr Shán O Cuív CC c/o Parish Office

Knockmitten

Fr Des Byrne CC 45 Woodford Drive. 459 2323



Parish Pastoral Workers (for the Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin)

Peter Siney 089 461 4226

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PARISH NEWS

Clondalkin Village, Clonburris & Knockmitten

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No 52

GODISNOWHERE

The words of the headline are sometimes expressed even by people of faith, when they believe that God is nowhere to be seen or heard. This is often articulated following events such as natural disasters; earthquakes, floods, hurricanes or even the bad weather experienced during the past few days here in Ireland. In the midst of war and conflict a familiar lament is why does God allow this to happen? I'm sure even in our own lives there may be moments when we think that God has abandoned us. I would opine that in the midst of all these sad occasions when we offer our help to those affected by such disasters we are making Christ present through our actions. When we make space for God in our lives we can rearrange the letters in the headline so that it reads GOD IS NOW HERE.

LAST LIGHTS CEREMONY

You may have heard the expression that it is better to light a light rather than curse the darkness. All are invited to the 'last lights' service in the Village Church at 4pm on New Year's Eve. The thirty minute ceremony is a prayerful way to say farewell to 2013 and to pray for God's protection on us during 2014. On behalf of the Parish Team I wish to thank all those who helped in any way in the preparation for Christmas and I wish you a holy and happy new year.

Fr. Damian

ADORATION

This Thursday 2nd January Exposition of We extend our deepest sympathy to the the Blessed Sacrament will be held in the Sisters' Oratory:

Morning - from after 10am Mass to Ethna Mullen, Monastery Heath Court. 11.45am, and

Evening - from 7pm to 9pm. All are welcome.

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meeting will resume on Wednesday, 1st January – Feast of Mary, Mother of God, at 8pm in the Pastoral Centre and all are welcome

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We wish all our readers and contributors a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Newsletter Team

PADDY DOLAN

Pray for Paddy Dolan, father of Vincent Dolan, Musical Director of the Clondalkin Youth Band, who died on Christmas Day.

NOTICES

Monday 30th December

Miraculous Medal Novena after 10am Mass and Rosary.

Tuesday 31st December

Lectio Divina under the direction of Sr. Anne in the Pastoral Centre after 10am Mass.

Friday 3rd January 2014

First Friday, All Masses are offered for those whose names are on the Altar List of the Dead.

Saturday 4th January 2014

First Saturday, Fatima Devotions will take place after 10am Mass and Rosary

DEATHS

family and friends of:

recently deceased. May she rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARIES

Monday 30th December

10.00am Joseph McCarthy

Tuesday 31st December

10.00am Percy Reeves

2014

Wednesday 1st January

Catherine and Louis Delgado 10.00am

Thursday 2nd January

10.00am Florence Moloney

Friday 3rd January

10.00am For all whose names are on

the Altar List of the Dead

Saturday 4th January

Tom and Nellie Cassidy 10.00am (Please note: no 7.30am Mass)

Sunday 5th January

7.30pm (Vigil) Kitty Brett

Jim Stynes, Cyril Storan

Peter, Paddy and Catherine 9.00am

Fitzgerald

Peter Brett

Kieran O'Connell 10.30am

James Crahan and Thomas

O'Neill

Phyllis Hurrell, 1st An 12 noon

Bridget Leydon

Martin McLoughlin Jnr Eileen and Jack Durkan

CLONBURRIS Mass Intentions

Happy New Year to all from the Parish Team in Clonburris.

CHURCH DUTY

Cleaning: Kitty Egan, Angela McCreevey, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Veronica Bayly and May Stynes

CHRISTMAS DUES

Christmas dues in aid of our priests are now accepted in Shop, Sacristy or box provided in the Sanctuary

NEW CANDLEABRAS

You may have noticed the beautiful new candelabras at Our Lady's and the Sacred Heart Altars. Please call and examine further!

Have you ever asked how where did the tradition come from! According to an article in "St Anthony's Messenger 2003" the writer claims that it started from the burning of lights at the tombs of the martyrs in the catacombs. The lights burned as a sign of solidarity with Christians still on earth.

Vigil Lights (means "waiting" or "watching") are traditionally accompanied by prayers of attention or waiting. Another common type of candle offering is the votive light. Such an offering is indicative of seeking some favour from the Lord or the saint before which the votive is placed".

Lighting a candle is a way of extending one's prayer and showing solidarity with the person on whose behalf the prayer is offered.

After the 9/11 tragedy, lit candles figured prominently in a televised concert affirming the power of goodness over the darkness of evil. The symbolism was similar to the Catholic custom of lighting candles as a form of prayer.

LOURDES 2014

Date: 7th May – 5nights Hotel: Jeanne D'Arc

Fare: €735 per person sharing

As we are limited to 30 places early

booking is advisable.

Booking forms are available in the

Sacristy, Parish Shop and Office

GREETINGS FROM CASHEL

Fr. Ryan, our well loved retired PP who was with us for more than 20 years sends his best wishes to all. His greeting came too late for inclusion in the Newsletter in time for Christmas. He wants to know you are remembered with fondness and asks you to remember him in your prayers.

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA

A Eucharistic Vigil will be held in our Village Church on Friday 3rd January 2014 commencing with Mass at 7.30pm and concluding with Benediction at 9.45pm

CELEBRANTS:

Fr. Damian and Fr. Anthony Little C.S.Sp and Fr. Piaras Mac Loughlainn CC

LAST LIGHTS CEREMONY

As the curtains are drawn down on year 2013 all are invited to a special ceremony here in the church at 4pm in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and the church in silence, lit by candle light to celebrate the year in its final few hours, reflect on the blessings bestowed, remember loved ones who are sick and those gone home and all the changes that few months can make.

In quiet adoration we look forward to a New Year full of promises and depending on God's Providence as we dedicate our loved ones, church and community to His loving care.