THOMAS MERTON. CONVERT AND MYSTIC

Last Wednesday evening in our "Faith Development" seminars we were discussing Catholic Mysticism and it so happened that the Gospel reading for the following day has Jesus telling the Galilean fishermen to "put out into the deep". In our session on mysticism the previous evening we had been discussing Thomas Merton, one of the most prominent mystics of the 20th century and how he had been "caught by Christ" in his conversion as a young man. Merton was born in France but spent most of his life in America and is associated with the Trappist Monastery of Gethsemane in Kentucky. In between he lived a rather dissolute life as a student in Cambridge and later on at Columbia University in New York. Merton was deeply dissatisfied with the hedonism and self sufficiency of student life. Like St. Augustine he fathered a child but was restless in his search for what was true and lasting. He was interested in Medieval Literature and seemingly by chance one day he bought a book on the "Spirit of the Medieval Period" by the great French theologian Etienne Gilson. As he walked down 5th Avenue Merton discovered it was a Catholic book and wanted to throw it in the nearest bin. However something in the introduction caught his eye and he actually read the book. He was "caught" as Jesus catches people when "he puts out into the deep". Thomas Merton became fascinated by prayer and attended Mass as often as he could. After a period of discernment his conversion was complete and he was ready to take the big step - to enter a Catholic Contemplative order. He chose the Trappist (Cistercian) Monastery at Gethsemane and they accepted him in spite of his colourful past in November 1941. It was here that Thomas Merton wrote his most influential book "Seven Storey Mountain" and this marked him down as a 20th century version of the great Catholic mystical tradition,

Next week we will look at another mystic of the 20th Century. Her conversion and mysticism is similar to Merton's in many ways – St. Edith Stein Fr.Padraig

LEGION OF MARY **PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK** on SUNDAY 29thSEPTEMBER 2013

Bus to knock departs from TESCO Clondalkin at 7.55am **FARE**: €19.00 CONTACT: Nora - 4591068, Jane - 0851435035

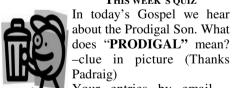
ART CLASSES

Children: Saturday at 11am to 12.30pm Adults: Thursday at 7.30pm to 9.30pm For more information please phone 087 1323433

Aileen Skelton

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Emma Carr is this week's winner. Congratulations Emma! Your prize is waiting to be picked up by you from the Sacristy after Mass today.



about the Prodigal Son. What does "PRODIGAL" mean? -clue in picture (Thanks Padraig)

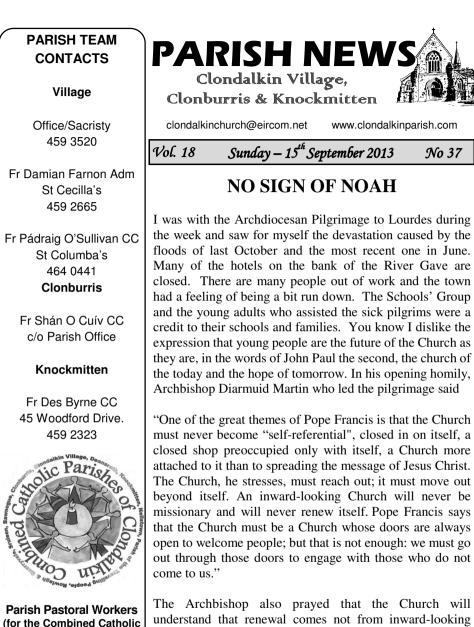
THIS WEEK'S OUIZ

Your entries by email ellenteresacoyne@eircom.net

by Tuesday or to the Sacristy by Wednesday morning

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.



Parishes of Clondalkin)

Peter Siney

089 461 4226

Christopher Okereke

457 3546

understand that renewal comes not from inward-looking debates but through becoming ever more the place where the compassion and mercy of God is lived out and shared. We put this into practice when we prayed for the people of Syria in union with the whole Church and for our Christian brothers and sisters who are suffering there.

Fr. Damian

BAPTISMS

Congratulations and welcome to:

Amelia Amy Sweeney, Rose Bank Court Anton Karl Rogers, Castle Gate Way, Adamstown

Harry Thomas Freeney, Castle View Rd Conor Séan Murray, St. John's Wood Aleasha Christine Kiely, Áras na Cluaine

recently Baptised.

ST. JOSEPH'S REUNION

St. Joseph's Boys School will hold a reunion for past pupils on 5th October in the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel. Tickets are €30 and can be bought in the school office or in 'Opening Minds' bookshop on Tower Road. Further details can be found on the school website or on our "Facebook" page 'St. Joseph's Boys National School Reunion Page'. Aine O'Donnell

"THANKS"

"Clondalkin Animal Aid thank everyone who attended their Table Quiz on Thursday last 5th September. A special word of gratitude to the management and staff of the Steering wheel, and to all who donated prizes for the raffle! "Thanks" also is due to those who could not attend the quiz but purchased raffle tickets. A fantastic amount of €851.40 was raised on the night to help animals"

Mary McCoy

NOTICES

Monday 16th September

Miraculous Medal Novena after 10am 10.30am Mass and Rosary. Legion of Mary meets in the Convent at 7.30pm. New members are welcome 12 noon

Tuesday 17th September

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

ADORATION

This Thursday, 19th September Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held in the: Church: from after 10am Mass to 11.45am Church: 7pm to 9pm. All are welcome.

AN INVITATION FROM THE PASTORAL COUNCIL

The members of the Parish Council invite all parishioners to tea/ coffee and chat after 7.30pm - vigil Mass next Saturday, 21st and after 12 noon Mass on Sunday, 22nd in the Pastoral Centre, through the shop at the back of the church.

We hope as many as possible can drop in for a general get together and meet other people.

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Committee acknowledges with thanks €2,589 – your planned giving contributions this week.

ANNIVERSARIES

Monday 16th September 10.00am **Evelyn** Jones

Wednesday 18th September 10.00am Margaret Jones

Thursday 19th September

Sheila and Tommy O'Neill 10.00am

Sunday 22nd September

5.30pm

7.30pm (Vigil) Jill Meagher Frank Kiely, 3rd An Teresa Corcoran Michael Fitzsimons Peg Dooley Kathleen Handley Pat and Jennie Maher Patrick Daly, 10th An Mary Anne Daly, 1st An Patricia Gordon Martha Ferris

CLONBURRIS Mass Intentions

Congratulations to Maisey Costello who was Baptised on 7th September after 6.30pm Mass.

Competition Winner

Congratulations to Jessica and Hannah this week's winner. Your prize can be collected after Mass today.

THE PRIORY INSTITUTE -**Bringing Theology Home!**

If you wish to study theology by distance learning, please register right away to secure your place on the programme. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept applications after the application deadline (23rd September 2013). Remember, we are here for you if you have any queries about our programmes.

Phone: (01) 404 8124

eMail: enquiries@priorvinstitute.com Web: www.prioryinstitute.ie

We hope you can join us on this exciting journey of studying theology by distance learning.

CELEBRATING YEAR OF FAITH

Have you ever thought about exploring your faith or wished that you could broaden your understanding of your faith? Have you been challenged by questions your children/ grandchildren ask and would like to know the answers? "Pathways" may be the course for you.

"Pathways" is a two year one night a week course for adults. It runs from mid September to May each year in All Hallows. There are no exams! The only requirement is an openness to listening to others and to participate.

For more information call 8520740 or visit www.allhallows,ie/study/communitylife-long-learning/pathways

"CROSSCARE" COLLECTION

Crosscare is the social care agency of the Dublin Archdiocese. Since 1941 Crosscare has been delivering services to those who need them most within the greater Dublin area. We offer a range of programmes based on innovative approaches to meet new and emerging needs. These services are currently run from more than 30 locations throughout the Dublin Diocese.

A Collection for "CROSSCARE" will be taken up at all Masses next weekend. It will replace the "SHARE" Collection.

CHURCH DUTY

Cleaning: Rita Arnold Altar Linen: Catherine Sherwin Flowers: Maura Gaffney to 19th, Marie Harrington 20th September

MONDAY CLUB

Hollywood village nestles at the foot of the Wicklow Mountains. It's a lovely place especially during the summer months when the scenery is spectacular. So a few years ago the residents decided to host a pre 1950's "FAIR". This proved so successful that this year they decided to make it a "GATHERING" of all people who were born and bred in the area. "Good News"! For four days in mid August they staged some wonderful events and had hundreds of our Diaspora return to relive memories of their youth and to bring back grandchildren in many instances.

Hollywood in California could not have put on a better show than the place that gave it its name back in the 1870's.

Joan Steed

THOUGHT FOR THE YEAR OF FAITH Comfort the afflicted and remember all those in need of Hospice Care Coffee Morning will be held after Mass tomorrow – 16^{th} Please give generously