

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 29th SEPTEMBER 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.

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ



In today's Gospel we hear about the Prodigal Son. What does "PRODIGAL" mean?
–clue in picture (Thanks Padraig)

Your entries by email –
ellenteresacoyn@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.

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
Clonburris

Fr Shán O Cuív CC
c/o Parish Office

Knockmitten

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

Peter Siney
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PARISH NEWS

Clondalkin Village,
Clonburris & Knockmitten



clondalkinchurch@eircom.net www.clondalkinparish.com

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NO SIGN OF NOAH

I was with the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes during the week and saw for myself the devastation caused by the floods of last October and the most recent one in June. Many of the hotels on the bank of the River Gave are closed. There are many people out of work and the town had a feeling of being a bit run down. The Schools' Group and the young adults who assisted the sick pilgrims were a credit to their schools and families. You know I dislike the expression that young people are the future of the Church as they are, in the words of John Paul the second, the church of the today and the hope of tomorrow. In his opening homily, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin who led the pilgrimage said

"One of the great themes of Pope Francis is that the Church must never become "self-referential", closed in on itself, a Church more attached to it than to spreading the message of Jesus Christ. The Church, he stresses, must reach out; it must move out beyond itself. An inward-looking Church will never be missionary and will never renew itself. Pope Francis says that the Church must be a Church whose doors are always open to welcome people; but that is not enough: we must go out through those doors to engage with those who do not come to us."

The Archbishop also prayed that the Church will 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 Mass and Rosary.

Legion of Mary meets in the Convent at 7.30pm. New members are welcome

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

10.00am Sheila and Tommy O'Neill

Sunday 22nd September

7.30pm (Vigil) Jill Meagher
Frank Kiely, 3rd An
Teresa Corcoran
10.30am Michael Fitzsimons
Peg Dooley
Kathleen Handley
12 noon Pat and Jennie Maher
Patrick Daly, 10th An
Mary Anne Daly, 1st An
Patricia Gordon
5.30pm 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@prioryinstitute.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/community-life-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 – 16th Please give generously