

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Working Holy Days: 10 am & 7.30 pm
Monday to Friday: 10 am



Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem

Recently Deceased during Covid 19

Cathy O'Sullivan. Firmount Avenue.
David Leahy. Woodvale Road.
John (Billy) Foley. Clontarf Estate.
William (Bill) Cotter. Mahon.
Brian Smith Snr. Beaumont Court.
Robert Neiland. Avonlea Court.
Rose Harrington. Castle Meadows
May the light of heaven surround them always.



PARISH COLLECTIONS

We would like to thank parishioners who are continuing to donate to the parish collections. A special thanks to parishioners who donate through our website. Just hit the **DONATE** button and follow the links.



Welcome to St Michaels for Personal Prayer

To maximise the number of people that can join us for Personal Prayer, we have made a number of changes to the church so that we comply with HSE guidelines and keep everyone safe. Please use only the bottom half of the church and exit from the left only, using the one-way system following the arrows.



We have placed **yellow spots** to highlight where people should sit. We ask that you **do not kneel-down** at anytime. *Many thanks for your help and we hope you all keep well.*

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Irish Catholic. (1) Nuala O'Loan: Suppression of critical thought is now a feature of the world in which we live (2) Eight things the mother and baby homes report told us about the nuns (3) Fr. Conor McDonough: Legionaries of Mary responded to unwed mothers with compassion.
Catholic Voice. (1) Understanding why some instruments are permitted in the liturgy and some not. (2) Sin -- An obstacle to our union with God.
Messenger (1) Loving myself -- a command of Jesus. (2). Four things I like about Blessed John Sullivan.
Tablet. (1) France -- Faith leaders say new Islamic terror law targets all religions. (2) Poland -- Archdiocese tells Catholic weekly to quit its offices.

Thoughts

In 1 Cor 6-7, Paul is dealing with sexual morality among the Corinthians, undoubtedly in response to reports he has received. Let me make three general remarks and then offer a comment on the reading itself.

Paul is a Christ-believing Jew, who follows Jewish tradition and who has a wholesome and healthy attitude to both the body and sexuality. See 1 Cor 6:12-20 and 7:1-7. At the same time, he can be shocked, as Jews were, by the loose behaviour of Gentiles.

In Corinth, Paul is facing two polar opposites. (1) People who believe that they are so spiritually free that it doesn't matter what they do with their bodies (last Sunday's excerpt from chapter 6). (2) People who think that they are so spiritually elevated that the body is somehow bad and all sexual activity should be prohibited -- extreme ascetics. Paul agrees with neither group, even though at this stage in his life the apostle himself is evidently single.

Finally, in chapters 6-7, Paul quotes slogans from both these groups. Usually nowadays, the slogans are in inverted commas in our Bibles, so we know that these "tweets" are not the opinions of the Apostle himself. A key example is in 7:1. It was not always so clear that Paul was citing others and not giving his own opinion. In the past at least, this led to many a harmful misreading.

Still, 1 Cor 7:29-31 will certainly sound strange to people today. Paul's teaching is grounded in Jesus' death and resurrection -- events so momentous that they have triggered (in principle) the end of time. As a result, everything has changed. In the current expression, for Paul there is a new normal. Three instances are given: marriage, mourning and commerce. Paul is not against marriage or mourning or commerce. The new normal of the expectation of the end of time simply changes attitudes even to these fundamental and good realities.

Perhaps our 12-month experience of living with Covid 19 may help us appreciate the way the apostle is thinking.

Catholic Schools Week 2021
Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience

COMMUNITIES OF FAITH AND RESILIENCE

24 JANUARY – 31 JANUARY 2021

COMMUNITIES OF ...

FAITH LEARNING LOVE RESILIENCE HOPE

When evil darkens our world, give us light. When despair numbs our souls, give us hope. When we stumble and fall, lift us up. When doubts assail us, give us faith. When nothing seems sure, give us trust. When ideals fade, give us vision. When we lose our way, be our guide! That we may find serenity in your presence, and purpose in doing your will.

John D. Rayner

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Under the current Covid circumstances, Fr. Colin has generously offered the poor box near the exit as a collection point for SVP. If you wish to contribute any time, it would be appreciated. Thank you.

Coronavirus COVID-19



Stay safe. Protect each other.

Continue to:



Wash
your hands well and often to avoid contamination.



Cover
your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue safely



Distance
yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell

Thought for the day

The journey of life inevitably brings up the question what should I be, who should I become? Is life a maze or a labyrinth? Is it just round and round or is there a way out? How will I be as a spouse, a parent, a partner, a church member? Within the Christian project, do I feel myself called to "activate" my baptism is some particular ministry or contribution? Such discernment will take in the grateful acknowledgement of my gifts as well as an examination of my inner generosity of spirit. In reality, we are all called by the Lord to build up the body of Christ. It is not a question of if but rather of how.
Prayer
God of surprises, take me by surprise once more and let me see how my special gifts could be part of your project of the Kingdom in Jesus.

Reflections

1. "The time is fulfilled" -- this is a decisive moment in the life of Jesus. His public ministry is about to begin. Recall turning points in your own life when something new happened and with hindsight you can say the time was ripe for it to happen, "the time was fulfilled."

2. "Repent and believe the good news". Jesus called for a change of heart, as a response to the good news of the gospel message. A new level of faith in yourself leads to a new way of seeing yourself. A new way of understanding God leads to a conversion in how we relate to God, a change of heart. A growth in awareness of who we are can lead us to a new level of self-confidence, another change of heart. Can you recall times when "good news" led you to a change of heart?

3. The Spirit of God, who was at work in Jesus calling the disciples, continues to work in our day and in our lives. That is why the gospel message is one of good news. In the everyday events of our own lives we can see the grace of God at work. When have you had what you would consider a "call experience" that led you to a different style of life? Who was the "Jesus person" through whom the call came to you? To whom have you been a "Jesus person" in this way?

PRAYER

Your sovereign rule, O God, draws near to us in the person of Jesus your Son. Your word summons us to faith; your power transforms our lives. Free us to follow in Christ's footsteps so that neither human loyalty nor earthly attachment may hold us back from answering your call. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

When you use the newsletter, please take it home with you.

DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE