

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

Michael Walsh, Silverdale
Edward Nolan, Upper Beaumont Drive
May the light of heaven surround them always.



Catechesis on prayer - 22. The prayer with the Sacred Scripture - from Pope Francis Part 3

Christian tradition is rich in experiences and reflections on prayer with the Sacred Scripture. In particular, the method of "Lectio divina" was established; it originated in monastic circles, but is now also practised by Christians who frequent their parishes. It is first of all a matter of reading the biblical passage attentively: even more, I would say with "obedience" to the text, to understand what it means in and of itself. One then enters into dialogue with Scripture, so that those words become a cause for meditation and prayer: while remaining faithful to the text, I begin to ask myself what it "says to me". This is a delicate step: we must not slip into subjective interpretations, but rather become part of the living Tradition, which unites each of us to Sacred Scripture. The last step of Lectio divina is contemplation. Words and thoughts here give way to love, as between lovers for whom sometimes it is enough to just look at each other in silence. The biblical text remains, but like a mirror, like an icon to be contemplated. And in this way, there is dialogue.

Through prayer, the Word of God comes to abide in us and we abide in it. The Word inspires good intentions and sustains action; it gives us strength and serenity, and even when it challenges us, it gives us peace. On "bad" and confusing days, it guarantees to the heart a core of confidence and of love that protects it from the attacks of the evil one.

In this way the Word of God is made flesh — allow me to use this expression: made flesh — in those who receive it in prayer. The intuition emerges in some ancient texts that Christians identify so completely with the Word that, even if all the Bibles in the world were to be burned, its "mould" could still be saved through the imprint it left on the life of the saints. This is a beautiful expression.

Christian life is at the same time a work of obedience and of creativity. Good Christians must be obedient, but they must be creative. Obedient, because they listen to the Word of God; creative, because they have the Holy Spirit within who drives them to be so, to lead them forward. At the end of one of his discourses addressed in the form of parables, Jesus makes this comparison: "Every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure" — the heart — "what is new and what is old" (Mt 13:52). The Holy Scriptures are an inexhaustible treasure. May the Lord grant us all to draw ever more from them, through prayer. Thank you.

Parish Finance – Thank You

People continue to be very generous to the parish in this difficult times. A sincere word of thanks to parishioners who continue to drop in their weekly offering and once-off donations to the Sacristy and Presbyteries. It's very much appreciated.

We also thank people who are using the 'Donate' facility on the Parish website to support the parish as well. A Donate button is placed on several pages of the website including the Webcam page used for livestreaming Masses. Please continue to support your parish either through a direct contribution to the sacristy or presbyteries or via the Donate Button on the parish website.

Stepping Stones through Lent

To help us all journey as a People of God in Cork and Ross through this Lent, people are invited to join in a series of short reflections each Wednesday afternoon during Lent at 1.30pm. The second of this series of short reflections will be live-streamed on this Wednesday 3rd March at 1.30pm on both the Diocesan Facebook and YouTube channels. Details of links to join in this short reflection are available on the Diocesan Website <http://corkandross.org/diocesan/hope-as-a-stepping-stone-for-lent-a-reflection-online/>

These reflections have been prepared by Elaine O'Sullivan (Chaplain at MICC, Dunmanway) and Fr. James McSweeney (Chaplain, Bantry Community College). Each week they will be joined by a guest to reflect on different aspects of our Lenten journey.

Alpha Online

Turners Cross Parish invites people to try **Alpha** with them on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm, from 2nd March, concluding on 11th May.

Alpha creates a space for a conversation about faith, life, and God. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. Sessions cover topics such as Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How does God guide us? Why and How do I pray? It doesn't assume any background knowledge or belief in Christianity and everyone is welcome. No question is out of bounds and people are free to discuss as much or as little as they wish. At each session after a short introduction, participants watch a video on one of the Alpha topics and then break into smaller groups to discuss the video and questions arising from it. Sign up and see what you think, no pressure, no follow up, no charge! This is Turners Cross Parish's seventh Alpha Course and their second on-line course. The on-line courses use Zoom. You will need an email address and access to a computer, or to an iPad or other tablet. Register in advance so a link can be emailed to you on the evening of each session. *To register email Brother Andrew Hickey at andrewhickey@presentationbrothers.org or Fr. Billy O'Sullivan at frbillyosullivan@gmail.com.*

Reflections for the Sundays of Lent

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM. Cap in Rochestown has kindly made his weekly reflections on the Sunday readings for Lent available to the Diocese. These reflections will be available each week during Lent as 'Reflections for the Sundays of Lent' on the Diocesan website. Fr Silvester's reflection for this Second Sunday of Lent is now available on <http://corkandross.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Lent1B.pdf>

Thoughts

A warm welcome to all to the second Sunday of Lent, 28 February 2021. The words at the centre of this Sunday's gospel are: *'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'*

As we all know, really listening is not only hard work, it involves a spirituality, a kind of letting go. Mostly we listen "with our engine running", waiting for a gap. Real listening means turning off "my engine" and attending fully, as fully as possible, to the other person. It is no accident that the core confession of Judaism begins in this way: *Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!* (Deuteronomy 6:4) In our deepest selves, we are all "hearers of the word," as we listen to each other, to ourselves and to God.

The story of the Transfiguration, mysterious though it remains, is appealing to us. The story of the (non-)sacrifice of Isaac is, by contrast, deeply troubling, even though it lies behind much of the imagery and theology of the New Testament.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Universe/Catholic Times: (1) Honouring suffering, building bridges: Pope Francis; trip to Iraq has dual focus (2) Questions and answers -- How many times a day can one receive Communion? (3) This Lent, pope urges faithful to centre lives on God, not themselves. (4) Weaponisation of water comes to Africa as Ethiopia battles division.

Irish Catholic (1) Michael Kelly: It is not good enough for people of faith to be glibly dismissed (2) Mary Kenny: 'Love thy neighbour' -- its true meaning (3) The Sunday Gospel with Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap -- *Listen to Him*.

Catholic Voice (1) Mgr. Charles Pope: A Lenten meditation on the Reality of Spiritual Warfare (2) Poland's Constitutional Court explains its Right-to-Life ruling (3) Fr. Bruno Mary OP: Lock-down Lesson.

Messenger (1) A Thought for the Day on rugby legend Jack Kyle (2) Does God talk to you?

Tablet (1) The cost of division -- America's coming schism? (2) Pope Francis urges Myanmar coup leaders to release political prisoners.

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

We live in a very noisy, busy world, a culture marked by constant distraction. Even at the ordinary level of relationship, attending to the other— really hearing him or her—is a challenge. It happens when we choose to make space, to shut out the other noises and graciously attend to each other. Something similar may be said of the life of the spirit. To listen to the Son happens when we choose it and, in a practical way, create spaces in our lives for such encounters.

Prayer
Revealer God, you open your heart to us in your Son Jesus. Help us to open our hearts to you, as we contemplate your living word. May the Scriptures be for us a place of true encounter and may we, hearers of the Word, listen with our hearts and lives to him, the Word made flesh.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

- When have I really felt, spontaneously and deeply, "it is good to be here." Was this moment of grace also a confirmation of yourself in some way?
- There is a sense in which life is always "on the move" and we cannot freeze even special moments. They do continue to influence us, but are not under our control. This is the mystery of human relationship and of our relationship with the Mystery.
- Listening and being listened to are necessary but perhaps all too rare human experiences. What have I learned about listening which can help me "listen to him"? The words of Augustine come to mind: "You called, shouted, you broke through my deafness" (Confessions 10.27.38).

PRAYER
Ever-faithful God, you were well pleased with Abraham's obedience and you accepted the sacrifice of your son, who gave himself up for the sake of us all. Train us by Christ's teaching and school us in his obedience that as we walk his way of sacrifice we may come to share in your glory. We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope, who lives

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL
St Michael's Conference would like to thank all who donated to SVP via the donation box at the back of the church. It is much appreciated. *Thank you.*

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.*