

Mass Times
Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm
Tuesday & Friday: 9.30 am
 Fr Colin Doocey Adm.



Baptism
Bobby Alexander Gabriel.
Jack Benjamin O'Connell.
Leighton Damien Rowe.
 We welcome them into the Christian Family



The Papers Say.....
Irish Catholic. (1) Bishop Fintan Gavin calls for World Youth Day pilgrims to bring back 'fire of faith' to parishes. (2). Elise Ann Allen's Letter from Rome: Clinton and Soros, new martyrs, indulgences and seminaries. (3) TVRadio with Brendan O'Regan: Searching for the ethical dimension to reporting the Ukraine war. (4). Entrenched views and a politicised US culture, Fr, Michael Kiernan tells about his 50 years of missionary ministry. (5) Mary Kenny: Ukraine and the morality of cluster bombs.

Catholic Voice. (1). Rick Urban: Enough of equality of the sexes. (2). Fr. Sean Sheehy: Who's your favourite person? (3). Devotion to the Precious Blood in July. (4). Mairin De Barra: High Energy at Packed Rally for Life in the Sunshine.

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1). Ghosts and Ancestors —. Fr. Vincent Sherlock enjoyed a Bruce Springsteen concert with 40,000 others! (2). Teilhard de Ghardin. (3). Fr. Peter McVerdy SJ challenges the culture of individualism.

Painting.
 In the coming weeks, we will begin to refresh the paintwork in the Sanctuary and the Parish Centre. Particular attention will be paid to the areas behind the three altars. There will be a certain amount of unavoidable disruption with scaffolding but it will be kept to a minimum. We will keep you updated as we go along and the first undertaking will be the Parish Centre starting now.

The last **Diocesan Needs Quarterly Collection** in April amounted to €51,018 throughout the Diocese, which is much appreciated.

The next quarterly collection will take place on weekend of 15th/16th July.

This quarterly collection allows the Diocese to provide ongoing supports to parishes in many areas. It contributes to the day-to-day running costs of the Diocese including the cost of personnel, utilities (light & heat, phone, postage & stationery, repairs & maintenance, insurance), professional fees, primary and secondary school religious advisory costs, safeguarding, data protection, mission and ministry and levies paid by the Diocese for national hierarchy costs in Maynooth.

People continue to be very generous to these quarterly collections over the years and your support would be greatly appreciated this weekend.

Some thoughts on today's Gospel....
The words of Jesus do not all bear fruit. Knowing this did not stop Jesus from speaking, but he continued to proclaim good news, truth and life to any who would listen. We take care to review the measures by which we value our actions and words. We pray for the strength to continue speaking and acting – even in the absence of evident encouraging results.

Truth is not determined by a majority, but is scattered abroad, being recognised and valued by some. I ask God to help me to hear Jesus' word for me and to take it to heart.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL
 Church Gate collection last weekend raised €1985
 We are grateful for the ongoing support for SVP -
Thank you

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on Sunday 6th August for tea and refreshments and more chat!
Everyone welcome!



Synod 2023/2024
 The working document for the first session of the Synod has just been published. This is a crucial moment and the document itself is inspiring. We should all give it our attention. www.synod.va

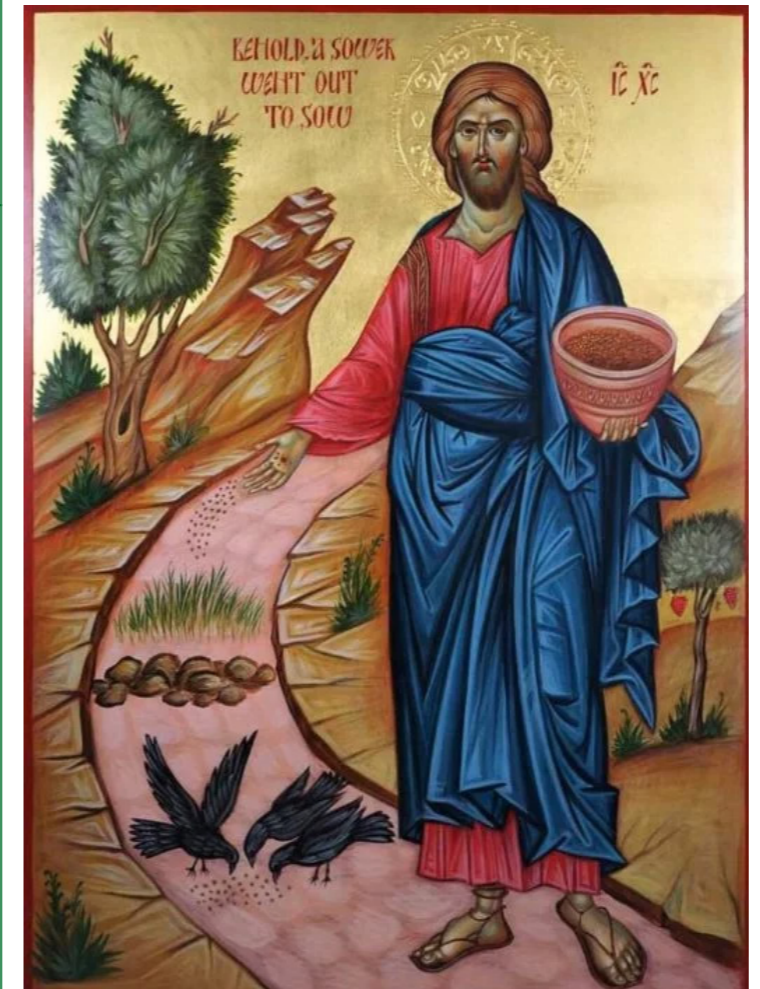


From Working Document -
The Pastors, established by God as "authentic guardians, interpreters and witnesses of the faith of the whole Church," should not be afraid to listen to the Flock entrusted to them. The consultation of the People of God does not imply the assumption within the Church of the dynamics of democracy based on the principle of majority, because there is, at the basis of participation in every synodal process, a shared passion for the common mission of evangelization and not the representation of conflicting interests. In other words, this is an ecclesial process that can only take place "at the heart of a hierarchically structured community." It is in the fruitful bond between the sensus fidei of the People of God and the magisterial function of the Pastors that the unanimous consensus of the whole Church in the same faith is realized.

Every synodal process, in which the Bishops are called to discern what the Spirit is saying to the Church, not by themselves but by listening to the People of God, who "shares also in Christ's prophetic office" (LG, no. 12), is an evident form of that "journeying together" which makes the Church grow. St. Benedict emphasizes how "the Lord often reveals the most prudent course to be followed" to those who do not occupy important positions in the community (in that case, the youngest); thus, the Bishops should take care to reach out to everyone, so that, in the orderly unfolding of the synodal journey, what the apostle Paul recommends to the communities may be realized: "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good" (1 Thess 5:19-21). #14

Inspiration
So how do we engage with the Word of the Lord in our time? A first step might be to ask not how but why do we engage with such ancient texts? We do this regularly in no other setting and even though we are used to it, it is in its way slightly weird.

Two keys can help us here. The first is the intuition that fundamental human experiences do not really change that much across cultures and time. The second is a conviction that our ancient texts, in the words of Benedict XVI, are the "very voice of the pilgrim people of God." We read these ancient texts because they refract the spiritual experiences of generations before us and we hope that their refracted light can illuminate our own experience today.



BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL
 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.

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS
 There are 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K Petrol Station. The code to operate both is 2017

Thought for the day
The parable of the sower is told twice, in an original form and in a later, church interpretation. The explanation tends to dominate our reading; but it might be worthwhile allowing the original parable to "speak." It tells of small, even careless, beginnings— the sower scatters all over the place. As we see in nature, tiny seeds have an astonishing, miraculous effect. Go back over your own experience and recall something which began modestly but which in the end grew surprisingly. The reign of God is like that— the modest beginnings of Jesus' own preaching had tremendous effect.

Prayer
 God of every harvest, it can be hard today to be confident about the Good News and yet we know that it is you who give the growth (1 Cor 3:7).
 K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections
 1. Jesus uses parables to make people think about their own responses to his message. As you read this parable you may recognise that at different times you have been like each of the different types of soil. As you recall times when you presented fertile soil for the word of God, what helped you create that receptive atmosphere? What lessons for life do you get from that?

2. Parents with children, teachers with pupils, speakers with listeners, are all like sowers in a field where the preparation of the soil is up to another—the child, pupil or listener. They can sow the seed but cannot guarantee that it will bear fruit. At times there may be a temptation not to try any more. The challenge is to sow in hope. When have you been surprised by the harvest you have reaped?

3. "We are wasting our time here" may sometimes be the apparent wisdom in a group. Have there been times when you have gone against this apparent wisdom and seen your efforts bear fruit?

PRAYER
 God of the heavens, God of the earth, all creation awaits your gift of new life. Prepare our hearts to receive the word of your Son, that his gospel may grow within us and yield a harvest that is a hundredfold.
 Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.



If you would like to receive a weekly commentary on the Weekly Scripture Readings, both in AUDIO, VIDEO and in PDF, please log on to www.tarsus.ie and register to receive the emails. K O'Mahony OSA