



St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

Parish Newsletter

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 16 July 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, 16 July

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is not celebrated this year

Special Intention

Michael Twyford (A)

Margaret Cavanagh (RD)

Kevin & Willie Maughan (D)

Anna Varoslavane (D)

Monday, 17 July

Thanksgiving

Margaret Cavanagh (RD)

Kevin & Willie Maughan (D)

Anna Varoslavane (D)

Tuesday, 18 July

Silvana Miller née Coppola (MM)

Margaret Cavanagh (RD)

James McKee (A)

Georgie McKee (A)

Kevin & Willie Maughan (D)

Anna Varoslavane (D)

Wednesday, 19 July

Thanksgiving

McCann Family (SI)

Nicholas O'Toole (A)

Margaret Cavanagh (RD)

Thursday, 20 July

St Apollinaris, bishop & martyr

Noreen Horgan (MM)

Mia Delaney (A)

Margaret Cavanagh (RD)

McCann Family (D)

Friday, 21 July

St Lawrence of Brindisi, priest & doctor of the Church

Nance Hehir (A)

Margaret Cavanagh (RD)

Kathleen, John & David Cullen (D)

Redmond Family (D)

Saturday, 22 July

St Mary Magdalene, 'the apostle to the apostles'

Special Intention

Thanksgiving

Margaret Cavanagh (RD)

Words are so important. Words can be powerful. Words can hurt. Words can put down. Words can encourage. Words can uplift. Words can cause conflict. Words can cause wars. Words can bring peace. Words can cause reconciliation. The word of God too can be powerful. The word of God can challenge the way we live our lives. The word of God can bring peace. The word of God can lift us out of ourselves and bring us to a new level of understanding. Today's readings are about the ways in which we hear the word of God.

God has a problem of communication with us and we have a problem of communication with God. God is a pure spirit and we are limited to our five senses in the way we communicate. We are not on the same wavelength as God. It takes a lot of time, effort and silence for us to tune into God's wavelength. It takes a lot of effort to begin to hear what God is saying. Jesus found the same difficulty with the people of his time and so he used parables to teach them about the things of God.

God communicates with us in many ways. God communicates with us through the sacraments of the church, through the teaching of the church, through the beauty of creation, through the beauty and goodness of people, through the events of life. Today's Gospel is about God communicating with us through the scriptures - the Word of God. Today's Gospel is also about how well we listen to God's word. Sometimes we can be stony ground, sometimes we can be thorny ground; sometimes we can be hard ground. For all kinds of reasons we can fail to hear God's word.

Fr Mark Noonan CM

'THE FATHER SPEAKS TO HIS CHILDREN'

The patrician is a wonderful forum to build up knowledge of our Catholic faith. The topic this month is 'The Father speaks to His children'. There will be a brief paper on this topic, then we gather to talk (or listen) about what we have heard. We have a cup of tea and light refreshments mid-way. Everyone is very welcome to come along on Tuesday 25th July at 7.30pm in St Peter's Club. The Patrician is organised by the Legion of Mary.

RCIA

Catechetical course for adults wishing to become Catholic (non-Christians) or to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church (other Christian denominations). It is hoped to begin this course in September in preparation for Easter 2024. If you are interested or simply wish to reflect on this step please contact the Parish Office or one of the priests. Much of the course is conducted through discussion and reflection and with sensitive regard to the faith tradition of candidates.

LITURGICAL READINGS FOR: Sunday, 16 July 2023

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 64

Response: Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.

Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain.

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness
it flows.

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Romans

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it

was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God.

From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:

you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

or

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;

whoever finds this seed will remain for ever.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Shorter form)

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, *'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'*

The Gospel of the Lord.

OUR ANNUAL KNOCK PILGRIMAGE...

... takes place Saturday 9th Sept. Bookings commence on Tuesday 8th August. Details from the Parish Office, (01) 838 9708 or info@stpetersphibsboro.ie.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in your prayers all those who died recently especially Noel Cassidy (formerly of Great Western Square), Elizabeth Gill, Kathleen Johnston, Margaret Skeffington and Silvana Miller.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

COLLECTIONS - Sunday 9 July

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Online)	=	€1,360.17
Envelopes (Online/Easy Payments)	=	€ 373.20
Share (2nd Collection)	=	€ 323.53
S.V.P. (monthly - July)	=	€ 575.59

Thank you for your support to the parish.

THE STORY OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Hermits lived on Mount Carmel near the Fountain of Elijah in northern Israel in the 12th century. They had a chapel dedicated to Our Lady. By the 13th century they became known as "Brothers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel." For centuries the Carmelites have seen themselves as specially related to Mary. Their great saints and theologians have promoted devotion to her and often championed the mystery of her Immaculate Conception.

St Teresa of Avila called Carmel "the Order of the Virgin." St John of the Cross credited Mary with saving him from drowning as a child, leading him to Carmel, and helping him escape from prison. St Thérèse of the Child Jesus believed that Mary cured her from illness. On her First Communion day, Thérèse dedicated her life to Mary. During the last days of her life she frequently spoke of Mary.

There is a tradition - which may not be historical - that Mary appeared to Saint Simon Stock, a leader of the Carmelites, and gave him a scapular, telling him to promote devotion to it. The scapular is a modified version of Mary's own garment. It symbolizes her special protection and calls the wearers to consecrate themselves to her in a special way. The scapular reminds us of the Gospel call to prayer and penance - a call that Mary models in a splendid way.

The Carmelites were known from early on as "Brothers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel." The title suggests that they saw Mary not only as "mother," but also as "sister." The word *sister* is a reminder that Mary is very close to us. She is the daughter of God and therefore can help us be authentic daughters and sons of God. She also can help us grow in appreciation of being sisters and brothers to one another. She leads us to a new realisation that all human beings belong to the family of God. When such a conviction grows, there is hope that the human race can find its way to peace.

