

St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 26th July, 2020
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr Phil Gaffney PP
Fr Ciprian Solomon CC
St Mary's Presbytery
Dublin Road ☎ 9834958

St Mary's Parish Centre
24 James Street
☎ 9834587 ☎ 9838347
www.stmarysdrogheda.ie

Hospital Visitation: is not possible at the moment, however please continue to inform Fr Phil or Fr Ciprian if a relative is ill or in hospital.



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

Where your Treasure is

Imagine that you have just won the lottery. Imagine unearthing a large metal box full of coins while digging in your garden. Imagine falling asleep and seeing God in a dream offering anything you wish for.

Stories of buried treasure, and sudden wealth is amongst most of the world's great stories - Aesop's fables, Hans Christian Anderson and Grimm's fairy tales are the stuff of our childhood dreams.

The very thought of sudden wealth quickens the pulse and poses the question, 'would all our troubles be over if we were rich? Would doors be open to a new future?'

Wealth is just another form of power and having power increased our options and yet complicates our lives. It can induce laziness, makes us avaricious and wanting more can become an obsession. We quickly learn among other popular sayings that money cannot buy happiness or make us a better person.

Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to finding a treasure or discovering a pearl of great price, but he was not describing earthly wealth or power. He stirred imagination as the first step towards understanding that true happiness is found only in right relationships with God and with one another.

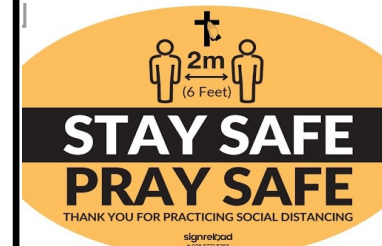
The kingdom of God comes not just as a gift but also as an invitation to follow Jesus. Possessing the true treasure of God's love enables us to give ourselves freely to serving those in need and challenging power and wealth when it deprives others of justice and causes suffering.

Life is short and most of us get one chance to discover what will make us truly happy. The Gospel offers a path that often seem paradoxical, that to find our life is to lose it, that only love given away freely comes back to us in joy - that seeking first the will of God is the secret of finding everything else as well.

The direction we set will determine the outcome of our journey. Jesus would say. 'Blessed are they who find the treasure of God's love and spend their lives giving it way to others'.

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 26th July, 2020

Sunday 26th July	9:00am	James (Jem) Matthews; Ann Tiernan; Holy Souls
	10:30am	Bill Connell
	12:00noon	Basil Kennedy
	7:00pm	Special Intention
Monday	8:00am	Special Intention
Tuesday	8:00am	Liam Keegan
Wednesday	8:00am	Special Intention
Thursday	8:00am	Special Intention
Friday	8:00am	Basil Kennedy
Saturday 1st Aug.	10:00am	Pat Hanratty <i>Month's Memory</i>
Sunday 2nd August	9:00am	Rita Murphy; James Mc Evoy
	10:30am	Special Intention
	12:00noon	Stephen Mc Cann <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Marie Leddy; John Owens; Phyllis Lowth
	7:00pm	Betty Redmond



The return to the public celebration of Mass and the Sacraments commenced on June 29th. This is a source of joy and hope to our parish community. Morning Mass has resumed at 8:00am. **The weekend Masses will be as normal.** We have installed a loudspeaker in the car park.

- » A COVID-19 **SUPPORT TEAM** is established in the parish
- » The dispensation from the Sunday and Holy Day obligation is extended for the time being. Many parishioners may wish to attend Mass on a week-day rather than at weekends.
- » Hand sanitizers are in place **permanently** at each entrance to the church. Please follow Health Guidelines and **wear** face masks.
- » Signs are in place to designate **every second seat** for use and for maintaining physical (social) distancing.
- » **Ushers** have been recruited to direct people to available seats including exit from the church, using the one-way system.
- » Thorough **cleaning** of church seats and other surfaces continues. Church seats will be cleaned with approved **sanitizing spray**.
- » Collection **baskets** will **not** be passed along during Masses; supervised collection baskets **will be available at the church doors**.
- » Ministers of the **Word** will be seated in their own seats, rather than the sacristy before Masses.
- » Ministers of **Holy Communion** will not be required to sign-in before Masses.
- » Communion should be received only on the hand.
- » Priests and Ministers of **Holy Communion** should visibly sanitize their hands before and after distribution of Holy Communion. Priests and Ministers should wear a face mask for the distribution of Holy Communion.
- » In the absence of choirs, **music ministry** will continue with a rota of instrumentalists and cantors as heretofore since Easter.
- » **People attending Sunday Mass are encouraged to take the weekly bulletin home with them.**
- » **Altar servers** will be able to maintain physical distancing in the sacristy and sanctuary. **Offertory procession** and **Sign of Peace** will be omitted..
- Baptisms** have resumed. Anyone wishing to book a baptism can do so by calling the Parish Office. Dates have been set aside in September for the children receiving their **First Holy Communion**.

A prayer for those who died...



Kitty Carolan (née Murray),
Ballsgrove
Patrick (Pat) Ludlow, Bellewstown

May they rest in peace



Supporting Our Parish:

20th July, 2020

Offertory: € 950.00

Development Fund: €1,555.00

Many thanks. Keep safe and well.