

Our old Church comes back to the parish

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, our old church, in its current incarnation of the Carpenter's Arms, has for a long time now been managed by a local Trust and run as a community centre.

Their work has provided excellent meeting spaces for a wide range of local groups and activities, and has been a real boon for the local community.

Now the Trust is handing the lease back to the parish, probably within the next couple of months.

There was a Zoom meeting during the week to provide more information, answer questions, and hear any suggestions as we begin to prepare for the future.

Here's a brief summary of what was said.

- Over recent years the Centre has been able to cover its running costs, including the salary of the Hall Manager. Apart from the immediate consequences and uncertainty produced by the Corona-virus situation there is no reason to think this will change. In addition, it is likely that with the hall returning to parish use great use might be made of the hall for parishioners' parties, and with more publicity, the hall bookings could increase helping produce a better financial return for the parish, as well as providing the parish itself with much easier access to additional social/meeting rooms.
- It is anticipated that the current Manager will remain in-post, and thought is being given to how best provide the additional support that will be required to set policy, monitor usage etc.
- It is thought that those groups currently using the Halls will wish to carry on doing so, and this is welcomed. The Halls will continue to be a community centre, albeit one now managed by the parish.
- A building inspection has been carried out to allow the legal processes to be completed and the lease returned to the parish. There is no date indicated yet as to when this will be completed, but it is hoped it will be in the next couple of months.

Pope Francis and three important words

In order to have a healthy family, three words need to be used. 'Please; Thank you; Sorry'. Three essential words!

We say 'Please' so as not to be forceful in family life: 'May I please do this? Would you be happy if I did this?' We do this with a language that seeks agreement.

We say 'Thank you', thank you for love! Be honest with me, how many times do you say thank you to your wife, and you to your husband? How many days go by without uttering this word?

And the last word: 'Sorry'. We all make mistakes, and on occasion someone gets offended in the marriage, in the family and harsh words are spoken. But please listen to my advice: don't ever let the sun set without reconciling.

Peace is made each day in the family.

A meditation from Anthony de Mello

A seeker asked the Sufi Jalauddin Rumi if the Koran was a good book to read.

He replied: 'You should rather ask yourself if you are in a state to profit from it.'

A Christian mystic used to say of the Bible: 'However useful a menu, it is not good for eating.'

The need for prophecy in the church

Today we need prophecy, but real prophecy: not fast talkers who promise the impossible, but testimonies that the Gospel is possible. What is needed are not miraculous shows. It makes me sad when I hear someone say, "We want a prophetic Church". All right. But what are you doing, so that the Church can be prophetic? We need lives that show the miracle of God's love. Not forcefulness, but forthrightness. Not palaver, but prayer. Not speeches, but service.

Do you want a prophetic Church? Then start serving and be quiet. Not theory, but testimony. We are not to become rich, but rather to love the poor. We are not to save up for ourselves, but to spend ourselves for others. To seek not the approval of this world, of being comfortable with everyone - here we say: "being comfortable with God and the devil", being comfortable with everyone -; no, this is not prophecy. We need the joy of the world to come. Not better pastoral plans that seem to have their own self-contained efficiency, as if they were sacraments; efficient pastoral plans, no. We need pastors who offer their lives: lovers of God.

That is how Peter and Paul preached Jesus, as men in love with God. At his crucifixion, Peter did not think about himself but about his Lord, and, considering himself unworthy of dying like Jesus, asked to be crucified upside down. Before his beheading, Paul thought only of offering his life; he wrote that he wanted to be "poured out like a libation" (2 Tim 4:6). That was prophecy. Not words. That was prophecy, the prophecy that changed history.

Pope Francis. 29 July 2020.

Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for July is that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

More information at www.popesprayer.va



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Mass of 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Introductory Rites

The Introductory Rites help the faithful to come together as one, establish communion and prepare themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

The Penitential Act

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

By hearing the word proclaimed in worship, the faithful again enter into the unending dialogue between God and the people of the covenant shared in Christ, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. The proclamation of the word is essential to the Mass

A brief time of quiet after the readings allows those present to take the word of God to heart and begin to prepare a prayerful response to what we have heard.

Isaiah 55:10-11

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.'

Baptism's Back (and more!)

The gradual relaxation of lockdown continues.

Infant baptism is once more permitted in church, and so are marriages and funerals (although in each case the numbers who can attend are limited to 30 people.)

To arrange the baptism of children please contact Fr Allen as soon as possible.

Quite probably the next stage will be the relaxation of rules regarding meeting inside homes, and this is likely to allow us to return to bring holy communion once more to those who are sick and housebound. Fr Allen and ministers look forward to again being able to visit those they visited previously. If you are in need of this ministry because you are confined to home, please contact Fr Allen as soon as possible.

Psalm 64(65):10-14

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.

Romans 8:18-23

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. *Alleluia!*

Matthew 13:1-23

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!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: 'You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.'

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful (omitted at the Bishop's request)

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

For Catholics, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.

There is no offertory collection at this time. Instead, you are invited to place your offerings in the basket at the entrance to the church as you arrive, or as you leave.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer, the centre and summit of the entire celebration is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his Sacrifice to the Father

The Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The eating and drinking together of the Lord's Body and Blood in a Paschal meal is the culmination of the Eucharist. The themes underlying these rites are the mutual love and reconciliation that are both the condition and the fruit of worthy communion and the unity of the many in the One.

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

*After the prayer and its response "Behold the Lamb of God...Lord I am not worthy," the priest holds up the Host to the Congregation and says **The Body of Christ** to which the people respond **Amen**.*

*In the same way, he elevates the chalice and says, **The Blood of Christ** and again the people respond **Amen**.*

For the distribution of Holy Communion to the Faithful a small table has been placed before the Sanctuary to socially distance the priest distributing Holy Communion and communicants.

Please wait in your pew until instructed by the Stewards to move forward to the priest for Holy Communion, always aware of the regulations on social distancing in the orderly queue.

When you approach the priest, please do so with arms at "full stretch" so that there is a good distance between you and the priest.

Communion will be given silently, and in the hand only.

Your hands, palms upwards, one of top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible.

Having received Holy Communion, please return to directly to your place.

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites

The brief Concluding Rite sends the people forth to put into effect in their daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ which they have celebrated. Their mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

Blessing

Dismissal

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HELP NEEDED!!!

The church is only able to be open for Mass when we have volunteers to help with cleaning and stewarding.

If you can offer half an hour to do either 'job' or both, please collect, complete and return to Fr Allen as soon as possible.

The August rota will be prepared by the end of next week - and there are a number of gaps still to fill.

On-line Support for Prayer

Over recent weeks there have been parish Zoom prayer meetings - on Sunday afternoons at 4pm for *Lectio Divina* and on Mondays at 7pm for Rosary.

These will continue until we are able to use the church and its meeting rooms more freely.

The Zoom links are posted on the parish Blog on the day

Financial support of the Church at this time

If you are in a position to help, you might like to consider the following.

- **DONATIONS AND OFFERTORY** can be made in the collection basket in church, or put through the door of the parish house.
- **GIFT AID** allows the Church reclaim tax paid on your offering, to raise a further 25% for the church at no further cost to you. **STANDING ORDERS** are a very helpful way of making your offering. *Forms for GA and SO are available from Fr Allen or the parish website.*
- **GIFT AID OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** Numbered envelopes are available from the Stewards for those in the Gift Aid scheme who still use the envelopes. Offertory.
- **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES**, too, are available for other parishioners - who are not in the gift aid scheme. Again, please speak to a steward.

MASS DURING THE HEALTH CRISIS

On days when there is no public Mass (because no volunteers for stewarding/cleaning) Fr Allen celebrates Mass 'privately' in the church usually at 0830.

Sa	11	6pm		Bridget Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su	12	9am	15TH SUNDAY <i>Psalter Week 3</i>	For the parish
		11am		Mark Tomlinson RIP (O'Gorman)
M	13	10am		Helen Wynne RD
T	14	10am		Margaret O'Gorman RIP (O'Gorman)
W	15		St Bonaventure	Mass Int: Gerry Coyle RIP (O'Gorman)
Th	16			
F	17	7pm		Mass Int: Anne Gallagher RIP (Evans)
Sa	18	6pm		
Su	19	9am	16TH SUNDAY <i>Psalter Week 4</i>	Mass Int: For the parish
		11am		

Please pray for sick parishioners including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke, Peggy Gallagher and all who are self-isolating at this time. Please pray for **Kris Stazewska** for all those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries of death are at this time, including Austin McTaff, David Finnegan, Tony Prescott, Teresa Astley **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**