

Sabbath Poem XII (2005)

If we have become a people incapable of thought, then the brute-thought of mere power and mere greed will think for us.

If we have become incapable of denying ourselves anything, then all that we have will be taken from us.

If we have no compassion, we will suffer alone, we will suffer alone the destruction of ourselves.

These are merely the laws of this world as known to Shakespeare, as known to Milton:

When we cease from human thought, a low and effective cunning stirs in the most inhuman minds.

Wendell Berry

A meditation from Anthony de Mello

The poet Kabir says:

‘What good is it if the scholar pores over words and points of this and that but his chest is not soaked dark with love.

What good is it if the ascetic clothes himself in saffron robes but is colourless within.

What good is it if you scrub your ethical behaviour till it shines, but there is no music inside?’

Disciple: What’s the difference between knowledge and enlightenment?

Master: When you have knowledge you use a torch to show the way. When you are enlightened you become a torch.



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Mass of 17th 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.

1 Kings 3:5,7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, ‘Ask what you would like me to give you.’ Solomon replied, ‘O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be

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 or others you know are in need of this ministry because you are confined to home, please contact Fr Allen as soon as possible.*

counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?’ It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. ‘Since you have asked for this’ the Lord said ‘and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.’

Psalm 118(119):57,72,76-77,127-130

My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold.

Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come and I shall live for your law is my delight.

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold, why I rule my life by your precepts, and hate false ways.

Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple.

On-line Support for Prayer: Over recent weeks there have been weekly 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

First Holy Communion and Confirmation

It is still very unclear when we will be able to celebrate the First Holy Communion scheduled for May 2020, or what is going to be practical with regard to the celebration of Confirmation in the coming months.

So far as First Communion is concerned one challenge is the limited capacity of the church with social distancing, and another is how best to complete/conclude the preparation of the children concerned.

No firm plans will be made until schools return in the autumn, but in the meantime parents are welcome to speak with Fr Allen after Sunday Mass.

Preparation for First Holy Communion in 2021 will begin in the autumn and families whose children will be in year 3 in September are invited to register as soon as possible. The form is available on the website, or in paper copy directly from Fr Allen after Sunday Mass.

Issues of capacity and preparation provide a change for next year’s Confirmation programme also - only there is the additional issue of the impact of social distancing on the number of Masses that will face the bishop-elect, Rt Rev David Evans. So even more uncertainty here - but again, families whose children will be in Year 6 in September are invited to register now: the form is available on the website, or in paper copy directly from Fr Allen after Sunday Mass.



Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope’s prayer intention for August is for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

More information at www.popesprayer.va



Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

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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Financial support for the Church

You will appreciate that parish income has been cut right back over the past months, but our bills have not been reduced by anything like as much!

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.
- **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES**, too, are available for other parishioners - who are not in the gift aid scheme. Again, please speak to a steward.

The Saints next door - or maybe even at home!

The Vatican has recently published a guide for Catechesis in the Church. It reminds that Catechesis is not in the first place about passing on knowledge about the faith, but is about formation for Christian living. That living includes our knowing about God, but most essentially it introduces us into a lived relationship with God, in the communion of the Church.

One of the things we will need to do over coming months is take stock of what we have learnt from the Covid-crisis about our values and priorities, and about our neighbourhood's needs. Thought is being given to how we might do this together - and how this might inform our priorities for the future development of the parish halls - soon to be returned to us. In the meantime these words of Pope Francis, quoted in the Preface to the new guide repay our careful reading and reflection

The Holy Spirit bestows holiness in abundance among God's holy and faithful people...

I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile. In their daily perseverance I see the holiness of the Church militant. Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence...

We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain.

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	25	6pm	17TH SUNDAY	
			Psalter Week 1	
Su	26	9am 11am	Ints of Dorothy Baker (Drozdz)	
			For the parish	
M	27	10am	Michael Lawlor RIP (Lawlor)	
T	28	10am	Josephine Ravenscroft RD (O'Gorman)	
W	29		St Martha	
Th	30			
F	31	7pm	St Ignatius Loyola	Private Intention
Sa	1	6pm	18TH SUNDAY	
			Psalter Week 2	
Su	2	9am 11am	Helen Wynne RD	
			Mrs Duncan RD (Drozdz)	
			For the parish	

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 all who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries of death are at this time, including Brian Boyle, Frances Bryan **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**