

Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall Parish

Part of the Glasnevin Grouping of Parishes

(Ballygall, Ballymun Rd, Corpus Christi, Glasnevin & Iona Rd)

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 29th January.

Parish Website www.ballygallparish.ie Email ballygallparish@outlook.com

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

Parish Team

Fr. Joseph Ryan Co-P.P: Ph 8573776 Fr. Harry Gaynor Co-P.P: Ph 8342248

Fr. Paul St. John PC: Ph 086 2250689

Sacristy/Parish Office: Phone 01 8369291 (Office Hours: 9.30am to 1.00pm Daily)

Mass Intentions Monday 30th Jan to Sunday 5th Feb.

Monday	7.25	Martin & Frances Morahan	10.00	Esther Victory
Tuesday	7.25	Carmel Byrne	10.00	Una O'Meara
Wednesday	7.25	Michael Boland	10.00	Marie McCaw
Thursday	7.25	Peggy Fitzhenry	10.00	William Graham
Friday	7.25	Altar List of the Dead	10.00	Altar List of the Dead
Saturday	10.00	Fiona McDhomhnaill	Confessions available after 10.00am & 6.30pm Mass.	
	6.30pm	William Kelly, Jack & Kathleen Hartnett, Joseph Hartnett, Francis Murphy.		
Sunday	10.00	Confirmation Preparation Mass		
	11.30	Maureen Dolan, Patrick Brady, Kathleen Hogan.		

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased, William Graham & Joan Curley. May they rest in peace.

Dates for Diary

Ballygall Active Retirement: Keep Fit Classes Resume 2nd Feb (3.00 – 4.00pm)

Liturgy Team Meeting Friday 3rd Feb. Parish Rooms.

Feast of St. Blaise – Blessing of Throats after 7.25 & 10.00am Mass.

Confirmation Preparation Mass for all those receiving the sacrament this year 5th Feb @10.00am

Family Offering Collections.

If you would like to contribute to the Family Offering Envelope Collection please contact Parish Office 01 836 9291 or email ballygallparish@outlook.com

Laudate Festival

The Laudate 2023 festival events will be celebrated as a follow-on from Catholic Schools Week in the Archdiocese of Dublin. The Laudate Festival brings a large choir of several hundred children together in each of the venues below to raise the roof in songs of praise to God and to lead us in reflection..

Entry is free for all. All are welcome.

Church of Our Lady of Victories, Ballymun Road, on Tuesday, January 31, 7-8.15pm

Accord Collection

The annual collection for Accord Dublin, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be made at all Masses on the weekend of **February 11 and 12**. Accord Dublin throughout the diocese offers Marriage Preparation courses – online, small groups; Counselling for couples and individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships, currently online or by phone; A Relationship and Sexuality Programme for schools. Accord Dublin needs your support this year more than ever. Please give generously on February 11 and 12.

Building Hope through Servant Leadership

Five sessions on Monday Evenings in Lent to introduce you to the practice of servant leadership: February 27, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27, all 7.30pm to 9pm in St Paul's Centre for Mission and Ministry, Arran Quay. This is especially for all those in parish ministries and pastoral councils.

Building Hope through God's Word

Saturday, February 11, 10am to 1pm at St Paul's Centre for Mission & Ministry, Arran Quay. A morning workshop for those leading Adult Faith Sharing Groups and Children's Liturgy. This will help you to grow in confidence. It's an opportunity to explore Lenten resources and how to use them in your parish community led by Peter Siney and Patricia Carroll. **To register please email peter.siney@dublindiocese.ie** indicating your area of interest.

ARISE!

ARISE! is the new name for Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the Archdiocese of Dublin. Including prayer, pilgrimage and faith exploration, ARISE! will support young adults in their faith, as well as those in parish who accompany young people. **Sign up to the mailing list** to be the first to hear all that is happening with ARISE or contact natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie.

'Take Care of Him – Go and Do the Same Yourselves'

World Day of the Sick 2023

February 2023 marks the 31st celebration of World Day of the Sick instituted by Saint John Paul II. 'Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane.' (Pope Francis 2023)

In that spirit, we place those who are sick in mind, body or spirit at the centre of our time of prayer with God who is charity and love.

Economic Poverty, Spiritual Poverty

Luke was concerned with the poor, so he set out to show how Jesus makes God's power present to the marginalized and the poor ... not just in his healings, but also by his personal concern. Luke's Greek-Christian community was a struggling, suffering community.

Matthew, on the other hand, was concerned with converts from Judaism, so his meaning of 'poor' is not so much about economics but about spiritual poverty. Humble motives are important to Matthew. He was interested in the integrity of people.

I like to think that both Matthew's and Luke's versions have a role to play in the way we live our Christian life today. If we are true disciples, we need both contemplation and action.

Matthew and Luke

Matthew's gospel encourages us to go deeper, to question ourselves and our motives. The gospel encourages us to remember that we are totally dependent upon the grace and mercy of God, and that by encountering Jesus in prayer we will become more aware of that dependence.

Luke reminds us that out of all contemplative prayer, there comes a challenge to act and live a life worthy of a disciple. The Beatitudes are the template for the Christian life. However, we are imperfect beings, and hard as we try, we will never get it right all the time.

St Therese of Liseaux

St Therese of Liseaux was a great example of someone who prayed for perfection, while accepting her imperfections. Therese trusted in her own experience. She is a reminder to us that we don't earn our place in heaven by ourselves (we are never worthy); we are saved by grace. Therefore, the path of surrender and gratitude is the only way. The Beatitudes remind us of this. They present us with a real challenge; but surely we are made for this challenge?

Fr Richard Rohr says it best when he says:

"We can try, at great personal sacrifice, to be perfectly righteous, a perfect friend, perfectly responsive, perfectly available, perfectly forgiving. But at the heart of our efforts must lie the knowledge that, by ourselves we can do, heal, or correct nothing. The point is not to be perfect, but to "perfectly" leave Christ to do, heal, and correct in us what he wills." (Rohr: *Immortal Diamond*)

The Beatitudes point the way for us. It's important to stay with the struggle. ■



Summary

Matthew was interested in the integrity of people.

The Beatitudes are the template for the Christian life.

Question

Can the Beatitudes enable us 21st century Christians to have a real encounter with the Risen Christ?

Prayer

Lord, help me to live a life of contemplation and action.



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Sat 28 Jan St Thomas Aquinas : **Sun 29 Jan** Ordinary 4 : **Mon 30 Jan** Weekday; (Ferns-Aidan); (Dublin/Meath-Margaret Ball & Francis Taylor) : **Tue 31 Jan** St John Bosco : **Wed 1 Feb** St Brigid : **Thu 2 Feb** The Presentation of the Lord : **Fri 3 Feb** St Blaise / St Ansgar : **Sat 4 Feb** Weekday : **Sun 5 Feb** Ordinary 5.



SUNDAY LETTER

Series: Morality; Fourth Sunday of Year A; 29 Jan 2023

I have visited the Holy Land twice. On both occasions I was deeply moved by my visits to the Mount of the Beatitudes. It is a visually beautiful place, a natural amphitheatre where sound easily carries across the land. One can imagine Jesus teaching the crowds there.

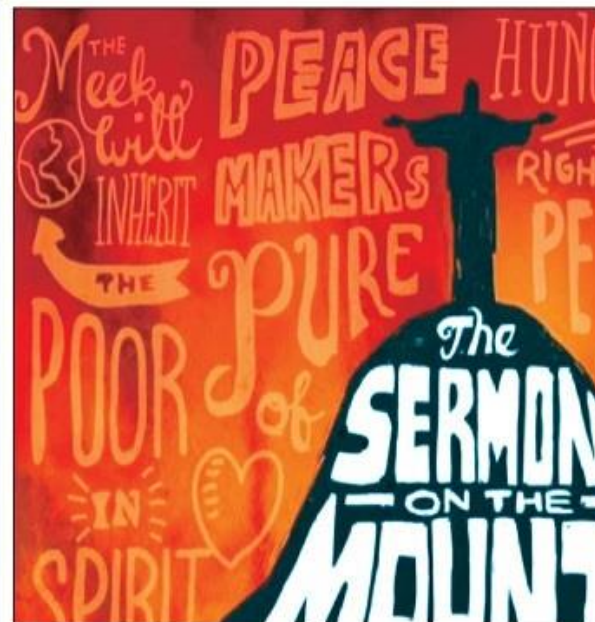
It must have been hot, so the first thing Matthew tells us is that Jesus sat down and the disciples gathered around him ... and Jesus began to teach:

"Blessed are those who are poor in spirit, for the Kingdom of heaven is theirs." (Mt 5:2)

Luke gives a slightly different account. He begins with ...

"Looking at the disciples, Jesus said ... 'You who are poor are blessed, for the reign of God is yours'." (Lk 6:20)

I ask the question: Can the Beatitudes enable Christians of the 21st century bring about a real encounter with Jesus, the Risen Christ?



Necessary Differences

There are differences between the two gospel accounts of the *Sermon on the Mount*. Most notably, Matthew has nine beatitudes, while Luke has just four – with four corresponding 'woes'.

The writers of both these gospels were emphasising different points for different communities, accounts which were coloured by their own biblical knowledge and the audience whom they addressed. The writer of Luke is most likely to have been a second or third generation Christian, probably a gentile from Antioch in Syria.

The writer of Matthew, on the other hand, was a Jewish Christian, and a member of a predominantly Jewish-Christian community. The differing needs of these two communities surely coloured their emphasis.