

### The Love of a Person

Faith, first of all, is belief in a person. We believe in God and in Jesus Christ, the saviour of the world. We do this in order to know the truth about God and about ourselves. This gives us something more than just facts about God, or even about the meaning of life. It brings about a radical transformation in our lives which changes our entire focus and direction. Our life then becomes a journey to fulfil what only God can help us fulfil – a fullness of life which can only be achieved by a life with God.

### The 'Risk' of Faith

In faith, every aspect of our life, everything we do or say, everything we don't say or don't do, is measured from the standpoint of a fulfilment of life in God. This is the 'risk' of faith – not a gamble, but a way of finding our security in God alone, in whom we rely, absolutely.

### Faith Through Christ

To reach this point, God must make the first move. God's self-revealing (in the scriptures and in the person of Jesus Christ) challenges us to redirect our lives towards God.

Through the preaching and teaching of the Church, and in the power of the Spirit within us, we give ourselves over entirely to God. Through Christ, by the Spirit, in the Church, we are brought to believe in God.

Some come to the faith as adults, and this conversion is radically and freely accepted. Whereas those who have been baptised as infants have to personally accept and confirm what was done for them at baptism. Faith, ultimately, is a free option to be taken up by those who really want it. ■

### Summary

*Faith depends on the power of God, not on our own power.*

*Our life becomes a journey to fulfil what only God can help us fulfil.*

*Faith gives us more than facts about God.*

### Question

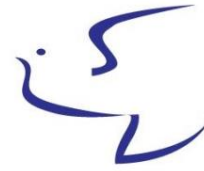
*To what extent is faith a free choice?*

### Prayer

*Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.*



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 Vol.45; No.11; Fifth Sunday of Year A; 5 Feb 2023; Readings: Isaiah 58:7-10, Psalm 111, 1Corinthians 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16; Next Week: Old Law, New Law.  
**Sat 4 Feb** Weekday : **Sun 5 Feb** Ordinary 5 : **Mon 6 Feb** Ss Paul Miki and companions : **Tue 7 Feb** Ard & Clon: St Mel : **Wed 8 Feb** St Jerome Emiliani / St Josephine Bakhita : **Thu 9 Feb** Weekday : **Fri 10 Feb** St Scholastica : **Sat 11 Feb** Our Lady of Lourdes / St Gobnait : **Sun 12 Feb** Ordinary 6.



# SUNDAY LETTER

Series: Morality; Fifth Sunday of Year A; 5 Feb 2023

## The Gift of Faith

*If I were to ask a believer, "What is Faith"? a good answer would look something like this:*

*"Faith is the total and complete surrender of a person to God".*

*This is what faith is; but for most believing people the answer would be more about what they believe – belief in God, belief in the scriptures, belief in the Church, belief in the teachings of the Church and the acceptance of all these teachings in everyday life.*

Without risk, faith is an impossibility.

Soren Kierkegaard

The prophet Isaiah lists a series of principles for believers to live by, because these are what God wants us to live by:

- share with the hungry,
- cloth the naked,
- shelter the homeless,
- do away with the clenched fist.

St Paul reminds us that our faith depends on the power of God, not on our own power – the strength and grace of the Spirit. The gospel of Matthew says two things about believers: we are 'the salt of the earth' and 'the light of the world'. (Mt 5:13-14)

## Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall Parish

*Part of the Glasnevin Grouping of Parishes*

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

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February.**

Parish Website [www.ballygallparish.ie](http://www.ballygallparish.ie) Email [ballygallparish@outlook.com](mailto:ballygallparish@outlook.com)

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

### Parish Team

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

### 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.

### 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.

You can join the Sisters of the Monastery of St Alphonsus on **Monday, February 20, at 8pm** or watch live on webcam [www.rednuns.com](http://www.rednuns.com), with the Dublin Diocesan Music Group leading the singing as they mark the World Day of the Sick.

### Dates for Diary

**Confirmation Preparation Mass** for all those receiving the sacrament this year 5<sup>th</sup> Feb @10.00am

**First Holy Communion Preparation Mass** for all children receiving this sacrament this year 12<sup>th</sup> February @ 10.00am

**Vincent de Paul** Monthly Church Gate Collection takes place 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### Mass Intentions Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Monday		Bank Holiday	10.00	William Graham
Tuesday	7.25	Special Intention	10.00	Joan Curley
Wednesday	7.25	Kathleen Mongan	10.00	Stephen Moylan
Thursday	7.25	Rhona Dargle	10.00	Available
Friday	7.25	Special Intention	10.00	Special Intention
Saturday	10.00	Monica O’Donoghue & deceased members of the Greene family.	Confessions available after 10.00am & 6.30pm Mass.	
	6.30pm	Maurice Walsh		
Sunday	10.00	Thomas & Catherine Byrne & deceased family.		
	11.30	Matt & Mary Bohan, James & Christina Kearns, Teresa, Andy, Elizabeth & Mary Condron.		

**Monday is a bank holiday Mass at 10.00am.**

### 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](mailto:peter.siney@dublindiocese.ie)**

### Family Offering Collection.

If you would like to contribute to the Family Offering Envelope Collection either by way of Standing Order/Envelope please contact Parish Office. Many thanks to all who contributed to the Diocesan Collection through our Tap & Go machine in the church, the amount collected for January was €662.00. This is split 60% to the Common Fund and 40% to the Share Collections.