

# Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall Parish

Part of the Glasnevin Partnership of Parishes

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

## 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time 23rd July 2023

Parish Website [www.ballygallparish.ie](http://www.ballygallparish.ie) Email [ballygallparish@outlook.com](mailto: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 Office 01 8369291

### Mass Intentions Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July

Monday	7.25	Nora Seavers	10.00	Matthew Carolan
Tuesday	7.25	Available	10.00	Tom, Jennifer & Mandy Smith.
Wednesday	7.25	Breda Costello	10.00	Margaret Brennan
Thursday	7.25	Available	10.00	Special Intention
Friday	7.25	Elizabeth Shortt	10.00	Eamonn Dooge
Saturday	10.00	Hugh & Maureen Friel	Confessions available after 10.00am & 6.30pm Mass.	
	6.30pm	Months Mind Remembrance Catherine Daly.		
Sunday	10.00	Jenny Brady		
	11.30	John McDonald, Joseph Franzoni, Chris O'Hara.		

### Recently Deceased

We remember those who have died recently, especially Vera Rawl, Imelda Cummins and Lar McLaughlin. May they Rest in Peace.

### Volunteers Required in our Parish.

If you believe you can help in any aspect of the maintenance & growth of our Church either physically or spiritually, please see the leaflets in the porches, and complete the form and drop into the parish office.

### Office Hours

Please note our office hours have now changed. Our Parish Secretary is now available on Monday, Thursdays and Fridays. If you have an urgent enquiry, please see contact details for our priests above. Alternatively, if your query is non-urgent you can email our office [ballygallparish@outlook.com](mailto:ballygallparish@outlook.com) or leave a voicemail on 01 8369291.

### Pathways: Exploring Faith and Ministry Programme (Know your Faith)

Pathways is a two-year, one evening a week, Adult Faith Development course. run by the Dublin Archdiocese, on Thursday evenings in DCU St. Patrick's Campus, Upper Drumcondra Rd. September to May (7.00 p.m. – 9.30 p.m). Application is now open. Contact: Pathways Director, Eileen Houlahan at 01 8087594 or [pathways@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:pathways@dublindiocese.ie). Web: [www.missionministry.ie](http://www.missionministry.ie) Ballygall parish offers to support parishioners taking part in this programme by part – funding the cost.

### Youth 2000 Summer Festival

Join young people between 16 and 35 this August at the **Youth 2000 Summer Festival**. The festival takes place in Clongowes Wood College, Clane, Co Kildare from **Thursday 10th August to Sunday 13th August 2023**. The festival includes inspiring talks, music, prayer, concert, workshops, dramas, share groups, reconciliation and healing service and Mass. Donation only and we have buses going from all over Ireland. For more information and to book your place go to [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie) (As always our retreats are **donation only**, we want to make sure any young person who wants to attend can do so, if you or your parish would like to sponsor a young person please make a donation to <https://youth2000.ie/donate/>)

### Weekly Ezine

Sharing the Good News is the newsletter of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. If you would like receive this weekly ezine, you can do so at <https://catholicnews.ie/newsletter/>. You are encouraged to invite others to do so too. Send articles and photographs for use in *Sharing the Good News* to [info@catholicbishops.ie](mailto:info@catholicbishops.ie).

### Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine & Co. Mayo.

Train Transport to Knock. Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August to Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August. Package Includes 3 nights accommodation on Full Board basis in 3\* Knock House Hotel. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours. Assistance from Knock Pilgrimages representative. Single Room Supplement of €150. For more details see poster in the shop and porch. Contact Patricia 087 1890236 [Knockpilgimages@gmail.com](mailto:Knockpilgimages@gmail.com)

### Church Cleaning Team

We could do with some help with keeping our church clean. If able to help, leave contact details into the parish office.

## Crucified With Christ

An essential part of becoming a true follower of Christ is to conform our lives to his life, and ultimately to say with Saint Paul that ...

*I have been crucified with Christ;  
it is no longer I who live  
but Christ who lives in me.* (Gal 2:20)

Our journey to personal holiness, and eventually to eternal life, must take the same path that Christ took. Jesus tells us that ...

*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves  
and take up their cross and follow me.* (Luke 9:23)

Jesus Christ loved all the people he met, even those who rejected him. Perhaps his greatest act of love was to forgive those who, out of envy and jealousy, had put him to death on the cross.

## The Place of Suffering and Evil

As Christians, we too are called to imitate Christ, to love our enemies and to forgive those who hurt us. In fact, very often, Jesus Christ uses the suffering and evil we experience to transform us and make us more like himself. In this way, the crosses that we carry are our means of sanctification. Saint Peter understood this profoundly when he said:

*This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials so that when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour.* (1 Pet 1:6-7)

## Bringing All to Salvation

The value of innocent suffering is a mystery which will only be fully understood in the next life. However, we know that Christ was innocent, and that his suffering and love redeemed the whole world.

When we participate in Christ's suffering, God uses it to save us and to bring others to salvation also. For the moment, we must accept these mysteries on the basis of faith, until the wisdom of God is fully revealed to us. Then we will truly acknowledge that ...

*He has done all things well.* (Mt 7:37) ■



### Summary

*God only allows evil to exist because He can draw good from it.*

*Jesus Christ uses our suffering to transform us.*

### Question

*How does God use our suffering to save us, and to bring salvation to others?*

### Prayer

*Lord, help me to understand the power of love.*



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# SUNDAY LETTER

Series: Morality; Sixteenth Sunday of Year A; 23 Jul 2023



## INNOCENT SUFFERING

*When the subject of God arises in conversation, one of the questions people often ask is: "If God exists, why is there so much suffering and evil in the world?" Indeed, many people justify their lack of belief in God on the basis that this question cannot be satisfactorily answered.*

*If God is good, loving, and all-powerful, then why has he not eliminated sin and death from the world? Why do innocent human beings (such as babies) suffer disease?*

*Why do believers who have received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Baptism frequently endure persecution, violence, and martyrdom? Have they not been 'saved' by Christ's sacrifice on the Cross?*

A due to answering the question of innocent suffering, and the problem of evil in general, is given in this Sunday's gospel. By means of the parable of the wheat and the darnel, the Lord makes it clear that he did not intend to do away with evil immediately ... he allows it to be part of our human condition for the moment, until the time comes for him to return in glory at the end of time, and to defeat evil definitively. Why is this so?

### Good From Evil

Saint Thomas Aquinas said that God would only ever allow evil to exist if he could somehow draw goodness from it. This is reflected in the command Christ gave to his disciples. He said:

*Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven, for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Do not even tax collectors do the same?* (Matt 5:44-46)