

Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall Parish

Part of the Glasnevin Partnership of Parishes

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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 17th September 2023

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

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

Parish Team

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CrossCare Homeless Prevention Appeal

This weekend, September 16 and 17, Crosscare will hold its **Annual Appeal for Homeless Prevention Services**. This will replace the Share collection at all Masses. Crosscare seeks your support to prevent more people from losing their homes as the housing and accommodation crisis continues. The number of people in emergency accommodation in Dublin is now well over 9,000; sadly, this includes almost 3,000 children. As well as providing residential homeless services, Crosscare is working with hundreds of families and individuals who are at risk of losing their existing accommodation. Please support the Crosscare collection if you can this weekend at all Masses in the Archdiocese, or you can donate online at www.crosscare.ie/donate

St. Vincent de Paul wish to thanks all those who contributed to their monthly collections last weekend. Your donations are greatly appreciated. support of the clergy of the diocese throughout the summer.

A meeting of our Finance Committee takes place on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm.

Grouping Meeting of PPCs takes place on Tuesday 12th September @ 7.00pm in The Margaret Aylward Centre.

Ballygall Active Retirement Group

Keep Fit Classes will resume on Thursday September 14th at 3.00pm. Classes are every week in the Fr. Maloney Centre. All new members welcome.

Chaplain At DCU St Patrick's

We are currently seeking to fill the role of Chaplain in the University. This is a three-year contract. The Chaplain will form part of a larger team within the wider Unit, which plays a key role in student support in the University.

Visit www.dublindiocese.ie/vacancies for more information.

If you think this role is for you, please email your CV with a cover letter to Cintia Mota (cintia.mota@dublindiocese.ie). The closing date for applications is October 2, 2023.

Parish Shop Opening Hours – Tuesday to Friday 9.45-10.00am & 10.30-10.45am.

Mass Intentions Monday 18th September to Sunday 24th September 2023

Monday	7.25	Special Intention	10.00	Special Intention
Tuesday	7.25	Available	10.00	Sean McBride
Wednesday	7.25	Available	10.00	Nuala Flynn
Thursday	7.25	Ann O'Doherty	10.00	Members of Ballygall Active Retirement
	11.00	Funeral Mass	1.45	St Kevins School Year Opening Mass
Friday	7.25	Available	10.00	Nicholas Nolan
Saturday	10.00	Nuala Flynn.	Confessions available after 10.00am & 6.30pm Mass.	
Saturday	6.30pm	Dermot McCabe, Peter Moran, Niall Henderson, Una Greene.		
Sunday	10.00	Available		
	11.30	Available		

Bereavement Support

The Irish Hospice Foundation provides a free Bereavement Support Line. This National Freephone Service is available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday, by calling 1800 807077. Visit www.hospicefoundation.ie for more information.

Friends Of the Elderly

Friends of the Elderly, a charity dedicated to alleviating loneliness and isolation among older people urgently requires volunteers. We have numerous volunteering roles available, home visitation, friendly callers, shop volunteers, social club events and hamper delivery drivers. If you are interested, please contact Jodie at 01 8731855 or jodie@friendsoftheelderly.ie.

Sunday Evening Mass (with Gospel Choir) resumed in Our Lady of Victories Church last **Sunday 10th September** at 6.00pm.

Bewley's **BIG**
COFFEE
MORNING
SOCIAL
FOR HOSPICE

Host a Coffee Morning for St. Francis Hospice on Thursday 21st September!



Call 8327535 or online www.sfh.ie

Charity Number 10068 Charity Registered Number 20027183

Thank You!

The writer of *Ecclesiasticus* was wise in calling us to account, reminding us of the importance of forgiveness, even our duty to forgive. God challenges us to leave resentment and anger behind, to stop hating each other and be merciful, just as God has been merciful with us.

From Old to New Testament

180 years before Jesus, the people of Israel knew an Almighty God who was compassionate and merciful. Fast forward to 70 years after the death of Jesus, the writer of the gospel of Matthew presents Jesus as the fulfilment of the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.

Hope in the Middle of War

In February of this year, Pope Francis, on his visit to Sudan, encountered a group of over a million people displaced due to the ongoing civil war. Pope Francis noted that, despite the painful circumstances of their lives, they hadn't lost their faith, or hope for a better future.

"Be seeds of hope, which make it possible for us to glimpse the tree that one day hopefully in the near future, will bear fruit. True, right now you are 'planted' where you do not want to be, but precisely from this situation of hardship and uncertainty, you can reach out to those around you and experience that you are all rooted in the one human family." (Pope Francis)

He went on to encourage them to be seeds of hope by choosing "fraternity and forgiveness" with people of other ethnicities and origins.

The Path of Reconciliation

In the gospel of Matthew, Peter puts this question to Jesus: "Lord, if my siblings sin against me, how often must I forgive them? As many as seven times?" If I only respond to injustice with resentment, I will allow myself to be poisoned by it. Forgiveness, then, becomes almost impossible. I say "almost", for we do have a real choice, like Pope Francis says, that we move from anger and resentment to fraternity and forgiveness, and so become seeds of hope on the path to reconciliation. ■



Summary

Jesus reminds the disciples of the importance of forgiveness if they are to truly be his disciples.

A better understanding of 'fear of the Lord' might be "wonder and awe", or "reverence and respect" for the Almighty God of Creation.

The key to understanding the Book of Ecclesiasticus is the author's identification of "the fear of the Lord" with "wisdom".

Question

What connects "wisdom" with "the fear of the Lord"?

Prayer

Lord, may my fear turn into awe, and my wonder into forgiveness.



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Vol.45; No.43; Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Year A; 17 Sep 2023; Readings: Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7, Psalm 102, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35; Next Week: The Letter to the Philippians

Sat 16 Sep Ss Cornelius & Cyprian : Sun 17 Sep Ordinary 24 : Mon 18 Sep Weekday : Tue 19 Sep Januarius : Wed 20 Sep Andrew Kim & Paul Chong & co : Thu 21 Sep St Matthew, Apostle : Fri 22 Sep (Clogher Dedn Cathd) : Sat 23 Sep Padre Pio; (Raphoe: St Eunan) : Sun 24 Sep Ordinary 25.

Some of you might remember a song called "From a Distance" written by Julie Gold in 1985 and sung by a variety of singers, among them Nanci Griffith and Bette Midler. The chorus goes as follows:

*"God is watching us,
God is watching us,
God is watching us,
... from a distance."*

This song challenges my image of God, and while the lyrics are beautiful, it also raises questions for me about what kind of God might be watching us 'from a distance'. This is not a Christian God. Even though the song is frequently performed on Christian radio, there is no mention of the Incarnation or Calvary, and hence no concept of forgiveness. 0-0

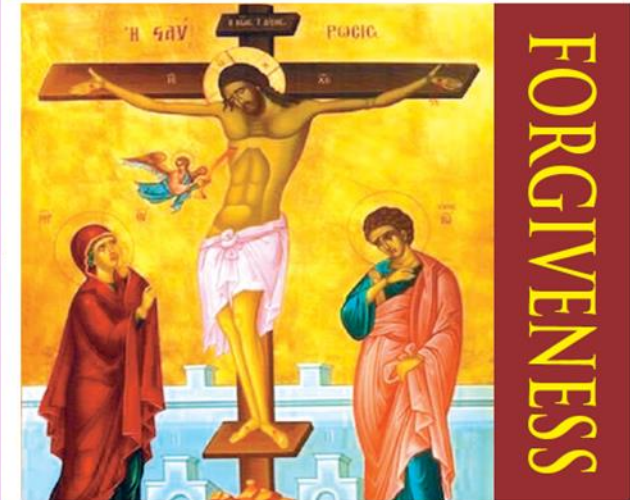
The psalmist who composed Psalm 102, for example, paints a very different picture of God:

"The Lord is compassion and Love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. ... [who] forgives all our guilt, heals every one of our ills who redeems us from the grave and who crowns us with love and compassion." (Ps 203)

This image would suggest a God who is intimately connected with humanity, rather than watching from a distance.

SUNDAY LETTER

Series: Morality; Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Year A; 17 Sep 2023



The psalmist paints a picture of a loving, compassionate God. Yet even here, God's mercy seems to have conditions because, further on, he reminds us that "strong is his love for *those who fear him*" (V.17).

Is 'fear of God' a condition? The *Book of Ecclesiasticus* speaks of God's 'vengeance', and of a God who keeps strict account of our sins. So what, then? *Ecclesiasticus* was written about 180 BC, and the key to understanding this great book is the author's identification of "the fear of the Lord" with "wisdom". For its author, "wisdom" consists primarily in the Law of Moses, especially in The Ten Commandments. It shows us that "wisdom" ultimately comes from "the fear of the Lord." But what did he mean by fear? A better understanding might be "wonder and awe", "reverence and respect" for the almighty God of creation.

Reciprocal Forgiveness

When I look at God through the lens of wonder and awe (together with reverence and respect) it becomes easier for me to experience God's love and mercy at work in the world. If I believe that God has forgiven me, then I am duty-bound to forgive my neighbour.