

# Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall Parish

Part of the Glasnevin Partnership of Parishes

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

## 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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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### Mass Intentions Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

Monday	7.25	Tom & Jean Heinz	10.00	Fr. John Carey.
Tuesday	7.25	Joan & Dominic Emmerson	10.00	Aiden Magdalen, Sean & Michael O'Donnell
Wednesday	7.25	Mary Daly	10.00	Edward Fitzgerald, Brigid Partridge
Thursday	7.25	John & Sheila Cunningham	10.00	Available
Friday	7.25	Alfie & Mary Doyle	10.00	Henry Moore
Saturday	10.00	Available	Confessions available after 10.00am & 6.30pm Mass.	
Saturday	6.30pm	Nuala McMahon		
Sunday	10.00	Ricky Byrne		
	11.30	Brigid O'Connor, Rosaleen Quinn.		

### Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased, Ann Nolan & Carol Seery, may they rest in peace.

### First Holy Communion Preparation Mass

We invite all parents, guardians & children preparing for First Holy Communion to our 10.00am Mass on Sunday as we start to prepare for this Sacrament. At the Mass we will be using the Grow in Love programme that is linked to the programme used in the schools.

### Baptism Meeting - Note change of details.

Please note that the meeting of parents for all children getting Baptised in November will take place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 7.30pm here in the church.

**Le Cheile Day Centre**, in The Fold Complex, St. Canices Road are looking for volunteer musicians to participate in a light entertainment session for the residents,

possibly 1 hour a week, 1.30 to 2.30pm. For more information, please contact the Victoria @ 018340542.

### Ballygall Active Retirement Group

Keep Fit Classes every Thursday at 3.00pm in the Fr. Maloney Centre. All new members welcome.

### Sacred Heart Boys National School

Enrolment for the Academic School Year 2024/2025 is now open. For more information visit

[www.sacredheartballygall.ie](http://www.sacredheartballygall.ie) call, 01 8379586 or email [shbns1Ballygall@gmail.com](mailto:shbns1Ballygall@gmail.com).

The school are also looking for excellent quality second hand books and games for their annual Christmas fair. Contact the school for more details.

### 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](http://www.hospicefoundation.ie) for more information.

### Aware – Support & Self Care Groups

If you or those with whom you work wish to connect with people in relation to your mental wellbeing, consider using Aware's phone-in and Zoom support and self-care groups, support line or support mail. For more information, visit [www.aware.ie](http://www.aware.ie).

### 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)

### Marriage Encounter Weekend

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of **Catholic Marriage Encounter** in Ireland a weekend has been scheduled for November 10 to 12. Venue: The Focolare Centre, Prosperous, Co. Kildare. Eircode W91 XR23. This weekend is available to all married couples at no fixed charge beyond the deposit of €50 per couple and a voluntary donation. Register online <https://www.marriageencounter.ie>.



## Biblical Revelation

In this Sunday's second reading St Paul tells us that he is capable of putting up with whatever life might throw at him. He has God on his side, and thus he has the courage to face life head on. For St Paul, 'having Christ' makes his life worth living. As he says in his *Letter to the Romans*:

*If God is for us, who can be against us.* (Rom 8:31)

The image of marriage is the one image that appears repeatedly in the Bible ... from the opening of the *Book of Genesis* to the final *Book of the Apocalypse*.

The Bible opens with the marriage of Adam and Eve and ends with the marriage of the Lamb to the heavenly Jerusalem. God is inviting us into a loving, life-giving relationship.

This invitation gives St Paul the courage to face all that life throws at him: wild beasts, floggings, shipwreck, even expulsion from the synagogue. Everything he had held as important he threw away once he had met Christ and had come to accept what Christ was offering. For him, Christ was everything. Christ is the marriage covenant offered by God; Christ is the heavenly banquet.

## Life After Death

The first reading this Sunday is often used in funeral liturgies as a way of expressing our Christian hope of what life will be like in heaven. For us Christians, life doesn't end in death and the silence of the tomb, because Jesus has opened to us a whole new way of being, a place of joy and peace, a place of fulfilment and happiness. It is the ultimate gift offered to the human race as it faces the inevitable question of death.

## Death is Not Silent

Is the coffin all I have to look forward to? Is my life to be summed up in a dark grave? The Christian sings out: NO!

And yet so many of our contemporaries seem content to settle for the hopelessness of the grave and the silence of death. It seems strange to us that those invited refused the offer of a banquet. But sadly, that is the response of the secular world to the question of death. They prefer the darkness of life without Christ, rather than accept the offer of life in Christ.

This offer is no small offer, it is the choice between life and absurdity. In his writings, CS Lewis challenged us not to settle for mediocrity, the choice of the modern secular vision of life. We are called to something greater. ■



## Summary

*Christ offers us a hope that far exceeds the categories of this world.*

*For St Paul, having Christ in his life makes life worth living.*

## Question

*Why was St Paul excluded from the synagogue?*

## Prayer

*Lord, may my belief in life after death help me direct my love to all men and women.*



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Vol.45; No.47; Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Year A; 15 Oct 2023; Readings: Isaiah 25:6-10, Psalm 22, Philippians 4:12-14,19-20, Matthew 22:1-14; Next Week: Cyrus, King of Persia.  
Sat 14 Oct St Callistus, Down & Connor Dedn Cathd : Sun 15 Oct Ordinary 28 : Mon 16 Oct Hedwig; Margaret : Tue 17 Oct Ignatius of Antioch : Wed 18 Oct St Luke : Thu 19 Oct John de Brebeuf, Isaac & com; Paul of the Cross : Fri 20 Oct Weekday : Sat 21 Oct Weekday : Sun 22 Oct Ordinary 29.



# SUNDAY LETTER

Series: The Church; Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Year A; 15th October, 2023

## The Heavenly Banquet



*C. S. Lewis was a British writer, literary scholar and Anglican lay theologian of the early to mid-20th century. We know him today as the writer of "Chronicles of Narnia" and maybe "The Screwtape Letters". He also wrote extensively about the challenges facing Christianity in the midst of the modern world. One of my favourite quotations from him is as follows: "If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who began the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great saints who built up the Middle Ages, the English evangelicals who abolished the slave trade, all left their mark on earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with heaven.*

*Since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world they have become ineffective in this one. Aim at heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in', aim at earth and you will get neither."*

CS Lewis challenges us to see that following Christ is not only about whatever modern fashion says following Christ should entail. We tend to make Christ as small as our limited understanding of success. In that sense Lewis is very contemporary.

## Be Nice ...

For many people today, Christianity has become simply a matter of merely 'being nice to each other'. However, the truth is that christianity is vastly more than that. Being a followers of Jesus may indeed make us behave nicely to each other, but it has much more to give than this simple, bland offer.

Christ has taught us the deeper meaning of life, and what our existence is all about. It offers us hope that far exceeds the categories of this world and the ever-changing fashions of the media.