

Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall

Part of the Glasnevin Partnership of Parishes

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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 11th February 2024

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

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

Parish Team

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Mass Intentions Monday 12th Feb to Sunday 18th Feb 2024

Monday	7.25	Peggy O'Neill	10.00	Noreen O'Driscoll
Tuesday	7.25	Catherine & Patrick Feeley	10.00	Mary & Samuel Graham
ASH Wednesday	7.25	Thomas Bourne	10.00	Daphne & Edward O'Donoghue & Deceased family members
Thursday	7.25	Special Intention	10.00	Margie Walsh
Friday	7.25	Gerard Gillooley	10.00	Eileen, Fran & Paul Curry
Saturday	10.00	Veronica & Kevin McMahon.	Confessions available after 10.00am & 6.30pm Mass.	
	6.30pm	Trisa & Jimmie Kavanagh. Tom & Marie Kavanagh.		
Sunday	10.00	Edward & Elizabeth Wade, Kathleen & Seamus Caulfield, Benny Smyth.		
	11.30	Deceased members of the Scully & Ryan Families. Andy Condron, Teresa Condron, Mary & Elizabeth Condron, Frank Byrne, Patrick Brady.		

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased Margie Walsh, late of Hillcrest.

St Vincent de Paul

Our local Vincent de Paul Conference will hold their monthly Church Collection this weekend, **10th & 11th February**. Your support is very much appreciated.

Lenten Gatherings

Each Monday during Lent after 10 o'clock Mass there will be an opportunity to reflect on the Gospel and pray for our parish.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Tue 13th Feb @7.30pm

Ash Wednesday

This year Ash Wednesday falls on the 14th of February, the feast of St. Valentine. Ashes will be distributed at both 7.25 & 10am Mass marking the first day of Lent. It is a day of Fast and Abstinence calling us to reflect on the 3 pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fast & Almsgiving. Trocaire boxes are available at all entrances to the church.

The Annual Collection for ACCORD Dublin, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be made at all Masses on the weekend of 17 & 18 February 2024. 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.

Ballygall Parish celebrates its 60th Anniversary 1964 - 2024

Some members of the parish met on Thursday with a view to arranging celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the birth of Our Mother of Divine Grace Parish in 1964. A further meeting was called for to begin preparations for this great event. This meeting will take place on **Thursday 22nd February at 7.30pm** in the meeting room to the rear of the church. You are invited to attend to share ideas and suggestions to make it an event worthy of the parish and its people. Prayer, memories of past events, dreams for the future, how we as a parish could mark this milestone were topics discussed. We need your help in making this a worthy celebration of our great parish. Come along you are all welcome.

Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse

This year's Worldwide Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse will take place on February 16, the first Friday of Lent. The Day of Prayer is an initiative of Pope Francis and was first marked in Irish dioceses in 2017. Blessed candles will be lit in parishes across the country as a reminder to the faithful of the need for atonement and to symbolise repentance; light in the darkness and hope. These 'Candles of Atonement' will be lit in diocesan cathedrals and churches on the Day of Prayer, and thereafter during the celebration of Mass and other liturgies. The lighting of the 'Candle of Atonement', and the following prayer, are based on the very moving Penitential Rite composed and prayed by Pope Francis at the final Mass of the 9th World Meeting of Families on August 26, 2018, at Phoenix Park, Dublin, when the Holy Father implored the Lord's mercy for the crimes of abuse and asked for forgiveness.

Lord, forgive us our many sins.
We grieve and repent with all our hearts for having offended you, for our great failings and neglect of the young and vulnerable. We place all of those who have been hurt by the Church in any way into your loving hands and under the protection of Our Blessed Mother.
Lord, bring peace to their broken lives and show us all the way out of darkness and into the light of your Word.
May we as the people of God be more fully human, more fully Christ-like and more fully your people, that we may see the errors of the past and go forward with renewed hope and faith in Christ and in our Church. Amen.



Not the Religion of the Pharisees

Somehow, in the minds of many people, the Good News of the Gospel has been turned into bad news. The bad news is that we would need to become good before we can approach the Lord. This is not the Gospel; it is something more like the religion of the Pharisees. The Good News is that we can approach the Lord, no matter what our condition or circumstances.

Faith is Not a System

Our faith is something more than morality or a set of admonitions on how we should behave. It is Good News, for that is what the word "Gospel" means. It is a revelation of God – "The Father of Mercies."

Jesus came among us to demonstrate what the Father is like. He could have behaved as a severe moral judge, condemning the sinful. In fact, that was what was expected of a prophet. Instead he reached out in mercy to failures and outcasts.

He could have invented any kind of parable to say what the Father was like; but what he did was to invent the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15).

He Reaches Out to Us

Jesus reaches out and welcomes sinners while they are still in their sin. He reaches out to the afflicted and heals them. Our prayer can therefore be very simple:

Lord, help me!

(Matthew 15:25) ■

Summary

Jesus healed his isolation, his loneliness, his despair, his belief that he was cursed by God.

The Good News is that we can approach the Lord, no matter what our condition or circumstances.

Question

How could Jesus break the Law so easily?

Prayer

Lord, thank you for reaching out to me by coming down on earth and revealing the Father.



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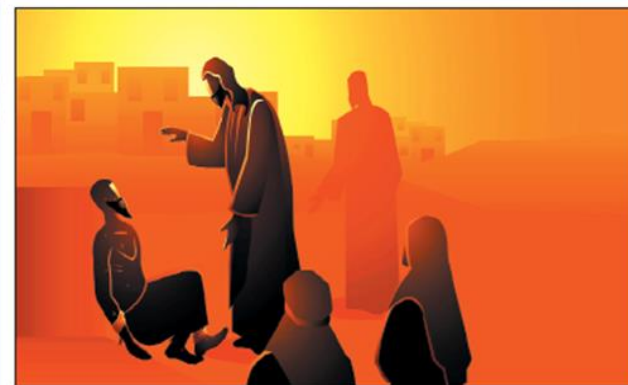
Vol.46; No.11; Sixth Sunday of Year B; 11 Feb 2024; Readings: Leviticus 13:1-245-46, Psalm 31, 1Corinthians 10:31-11:1, Mark 1:40-45; Next Week: Love is Patient and Kind.

Sat 10 Feb St Scholastica : Sun 11 Feb Ordinary 6 : Mon 12 Feb Weekday : Tue 13 Feb Weekday : Wed 14 Feb Ash Wednesday : Thu 15 Feb Weekday : Fri 16 Feb Weekday : Sat 17 Feb Founders of the Servites/St Fintan : Sun 18 Feb Lent 1.



SUNDAY LETTER

Series: Jesus-Human and Divine; Sixth Sunday of Year B; 11 Feb 2024



Healing

Jesus spoke, and it was done. This reflects the action of the Word of God at the beginning of creation:

"Let there be light, and there was light." (Gen 1:3)

Jesus' words were words of power; they were not commentaries or admonitions.

The ancient world was terrified of leprosy. In Jewish law the sufferer was totally isolated from society:

"The leper ... shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry, 'Unclean, unclean'. He shall dwell alone in a habitation outside the camp" (Leviticus 13:45f)

The law specified further that a leper had to keep a distance of two metres from other people, and if the other person was downwind from the leper, the distance had to be fifty metres.

No leper would ever have approached an orthodox rabbi, but the leper in this story approached Jesus confidently for help. This was exceptional, but even more exceptional was what followed:

Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him ...

(Mark 1:41)

That touch healed him – healed his disease, yes, but also healed his feeling of himself being a disease, not only having a disease. It healed his isolation, his loneliness, his despair, his belief that he was cursed by God. This is the God revealed by Jesus as, a "Father of Mercies."

Bursting Through the Law

By touching the leper, Jesus himself was defiled in the eyes of Jewish law. The leper broke the Law in approaching Jesus, and Jesus, in turn, broke through the Law to reach and touch the afflicted man. St Paul wrote:

For our sake, God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor 5:21)