

Thought for the week

MINISTERING TO ANXIETY IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC.

It was a beautiful, warm, sunny morning. One of the many days on which we've been able to say: 'Thank God we've at least been having good weather.' There were many people out and about. It all felt almost normal. One person caught my attention. A little elderly lady carrying a large shopping bag. She was wrestling with a face-mask. It was down over her chin; she pulled it up to cover her nose and mouth; it slipped again. What struck me was not so much the face-mask as the look in her eyes. She was frightened. Her struggle with the mask didn't seem to slow her walk, which was, while certainly not youthful, notably brisk for a person of her age. My impression was that she was anxious to get back, with her shopping, to the safety of her home. Was she afraid of contracting Covid-19? Afraid because she was breaching her cocoon? Afraid because an equally elderly husband was anxious for her return? That fleeting encounter seemed to validate some questions that have been nagging me of late. Has anyone helped that vulnerable lady, and countless people like her, not to be frightened? Has the state shown sufficient care for aspects of her welfare other than the physical? Are we, as Church, ministering to her as well as we ought? Have we become so focused on material compliance that we risk overlooking other matters? Has our pastoral vision narrowed? Not one of us, whether priest or politician, cabinet-member or bishop, has been given a roadmap for these times. It's easy to hurl from the ditch, but on the other hand, it's precisely because we don't have a roadmap that we must be open to scrutiny and review. We have absolutely no reason to believe that we are currently doing the best possible job; there is nothing disloyal or unpatriotic about asking questions. What's more, in a profoundly 'awkward' situation, questions can be awkward.

Fr. Chris Hayden

(To be continued next week.....)

Have a Wonderful Week

PARISH NEWSLETTER

15th. Sunday in Ordinary. Time. 12th. July



PARISH CENTRE

Opening hours: Tuesday & Friday 9.30 - 1.30.

Phone 059 9156890 email:

clonmoreoffice.parish@gmail.com

Fr. John: 086-2403787; email: frjohn51@gmail.com.

Website: www.clonmoreparish.ie

Today's Gospel is in three parts: the parable Jesus taught, an explanation on how to listen, and an explanation of the parable Jesus taught. The parable itself is well known and concerns seeds, where they land, and what happens to them. We might take note of the seeds as representing God's Word and the effect it has, or does not have, on us. What makes the difference in the parable is the type of soil the seed lands on and how suitable it is for growth to take place. Let us consider our own hearts as the soil: how open are we to receiving seeds that may be planted there? What condition is our 'soil' in? Any decent gardener will know that good soil is key in order to cultivate anything. Soil needs to be weathered, broken down; it can be too acidic, or it can be too alkaline. Good soil needs organic matter such as compost or manure. It needs lots of air and water; it needs to be tended and prepared. We too are weathered down by various forces in our lives, and at times have manure thrown at us. This can either close us down and harden our hearts, or it can open us up help us to grow, ready to receive the seeds that are scattered. Like the soil, we must take care of our bodies, hearts, and minds, adopt a holistic approach to our well-being. The lesson on 'hearing' in the Gospel today is also important. How do we listen? Do we listen or read God's word while being distracted by many things, or are we fully attentive, even for a few minutes each day? How do we listen to one another? Fully attentive or with one eye on our phone? There is a great richness in the text today, spend time with it. Perhaps think about how you might prepare better the soil for planting. 'The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.' (Wendell Berry)

MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday 14th. July Mass in Clonmore at 7.30 pm. Wednesday 15th. Mass in Ballyconnell Church at 9.30 am. Thursday 16th. Mass in Ballyconnell Church at 9.30 am. Friday 17th. Mass in Ballyconnell Church at 7.30 pm. Saturday 18th. July: Mass in Ballyconnell Church at 7.30. Sunday 19th. Mass in Clonmore Church at 10.30.

Anniversaries - with love we remember

Sunday 12th. July: **Kilquiggan Church:** Gerry & Kitty Frayne, Cronelea
Tuesday 14th. Clonmore Church: Month's Mind Louisa Kinsella.
Sunday 19th. July: Clonmore Church: Louisa Kinsella and her husband James Kinsella. Thomas & Margaret Pollard, Bellmount.



OUTDOOR BINGO ON Sunday 2nd.
August (Bank holiday weekend) In
Carpark behind Ballyconnell Church.
Please spread the word. Begins at 3.00
pm.



We hope to have a meeting in Ballyconnell Church on Wednesday 15th. at 7.30 to organise this event. If you would like to help with the organization of the Bingo, please contact Gertie Keogh Tommy Byrne, or Fr. John

FACEBOOK - FAKE NEWS.

At least once a week, I find myself taking to Facebook to ask those in my timeline to 'please stop sharing fake news.' Fake news can range from people sharing a Happy Birthday message to Pope Francis in July (his birthday is in December) to those sharing a story about how clicking and liking a photo will see Facebook donating a dollar or a euro to support a family with a sick child (they won't). From the silly to the serious, I see fake news in my timeline every single day. I try to do my bit to gently correct, or in some cases to clearly call out, the person posting the fake news. I also find myself having to block chain messages that come into my inbox on Facebook Messenger. People share these messages and forward them without questioning where they have come from or considering how the content might affect the person receiving them. Facebook in particular seems to be perpetually in the grip of an epidemic of fake news and foul chain messages. Facebook feels more like Fakebook every day. This type of fake news sharing happens all the time within personal Facebook pages, but increasingly I am seeing fake news being shared without question on official pages belonging to parishes and other organisations. This is an unacceptable trend that we need to be mindful of if we are looking after social media pages for a parish, diocese or other church organisation. To be continued next....

Ms. Brenda Drumm

Pope's Intention for July

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.