

Thought for the week

FEAST DAY OF ST BRIGID -

ABBESS AND SECONDARY PATRON OF IRELAND

By Fr Billy Swan

Continued from last week...

At a time of increasing secularism, the imperative for a stronger Christian unity that translates into a greater unity of mission and purpose, appears all the more urgent. In a culture of multiple identities, now is a time when the scandal of division among Christians appears less tolerable and the need greater to show the world the Trinity at a time of global uncertainty and fragmentation. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy paid tribute to Ireland as 'a maker and shaper of world peace...no larger nation did more to keep Christianity and western culture alive in their darkest centuries...You have something to give to the world' (*Address to Joint Houses of the Oireachtas*, Dublin, 28th June 1963). These words remind the Irish Churches not to preserve all our energies in resolving theological differences between the traditions, important as this work is. It is a call to commit ourselves to a joint mission in the service to humanity. Joint mission to the world saves the Church from being too 'self-referential' and shows how 'unity of action leads to the full unity of faith'. As Pope Francis explains: 'To do something together is a high and effective form of dialogue'. In this light, St Brigid invites Irish Christians to see the universal nature of their Christian vocation that extends to the whole of humanity and beyond their own locality and denomination. Lastly, this Brigidine principle taps into the vitality of our joint missionary heritage and the immense contribution that Irish Christian missionaries of all denominations have made around the globe. It keeps the energies of the ecumenical movement focused outwards with the hope that differences of doctrine and tradition will be resolved in the context of our joint missionary efforts. With a renewed missionary commitment, the hope arises that the future will be marked not just by historical reflection but remembered for its legacy of real progress in unity among Irish Christians. On this feast day of St Brigid, we pray through her intercession that, in the words of St Therese of Lisieux, that there be 'love at the heart of the Church'. We ask her to pray for all Christians at this time of pandemic, that we might be united in charity and loving mercy towards all the people of God. We ask her to pray for a great renewal of the faith in the Church in Ireland beginning now but coming to fruition in the future. St Brigid, pray for us!

Have a Wonderful Week

PARISH NEWSLETTER

14th. February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The
Season
of
Lent



PARISH CENTRE

The Parish Centre will be open on Friday morning
from 9.30- 1.30

clonmoreoffice.parish@gmail.com

Fr. John: 086-2403787; email: fr.john51@gmail.com.

Website: www.clonmoreparish.ie

Day of Prayer for Temperance

'Stretched out his hand...'

Jesus, in today's Gospel, cures a leper by the healing touch of his hand. A leper was completely outcasted from society due to the huge stigma surrounding the disease, which was highly contagious but was also seen as a punishment from God in Jesus' time. Jesus is moved with pity for this man and reaches out to him. Jesus sends the man to the priests, as a testimony to them. Jesus' 'pity' also conveys anger at the leper's situation. It is the religious hierarchy of Jesus' time who have alienated this man. What they are incapable of doing (healing him), Jesus has done by 'stretching out his hand' in love. A question for us from this Gospel today might be, who are those our society outcast? Who is alienated in our communities? What moves you with pity? Who is it that we need to reach out to at this time? Jesus, in Mark's Gospel, is forever asking people to keep quiet and not tell anyone about what he does. Yet, after such a radical encounter with God which frees this man from all that keeps him trapped, of course he wants to shout from the roof tops. Why would Jesus want his miracles to be kept a secret? Jesus wants to be able to fulfil his mission without attracting the wrong kind of attention. Eventually those who are against him will use encounters like this one to compile evidence against him. For now, the less they know the better. We might think today of those who bravely speak out, even if it means they are punished in some way. May all of us have the courage, like the man who is healed in the Gospel today, to proclaim the truth, even if it costs us. 'There is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.' (Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 225)

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS

Hope matters and we cannot live without it. Hope is a course of action, not a wish that things will be different. The future can be better and can be brighter. We each have the power within us to make it so. Do not wish to be anyone to be anything but what you are and try to be that perfectly. St. Francis of Assisi. Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards. Soren Kierkegard

Anniversaries - with love we remember

Sunday 14th. February:



Mass
Schedule

Following HSE guidelines we will have mass online via our Parish Webcam on Sundays at 10.30 in Ballyconnell.

Anniversaries will be prayed for at this mass.

Our weekday masses will be on our Facebook Page at 10.00

Wednesday 17th. is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a day of huge significance for us as members of the christian community. On that day we begin our journey of Lent, forty days of turning back to God, 40 days of re-examining our lives through the lens of faith, forty days of pushing the reset button on how we live in relationship with God, with one another and with ourselves. For obvious reasons Ash Wednesday will be very different this year. We will bless ashes on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, and on Ash Wednesday we will leave some blessed Ashes on the altar rails in the three churches. We will leave some small envelopes beside this and you can come to the churches, take some blessed ashes and the accompanying prayer and you can administir it to yourself and to your household.

ASSITANCE COLLECTING PRESCRIPTIONS OF MESSAGES ANYBODY IN OUR COMMUNITY OR PARISH WHO NEED ANY FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF COOLKENNO GAA OR CONTACT FR. JOHN. WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER AND TOGETHER WE WILL OVERTCOME IT.

Covid-19 Support Line for Older People

Alone manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties to the outbreak of Covid-19. Professional staff are available reassurance where necessary. The support line is one seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024

Having said that..... (Fr. Vincent Shelock from Irish Catholic)

In NPHE and Government announcements, I believe there should be room for acknowledgment of the sacrifice being made by people of Faith throughout the country. Parishes and church groups of all denominations have done so much to promote the welfare of people and, it seems without much recognition or acknowledgement. There must exist a voice somewhere that could put words around encouraging people of faith and inviting them to pray for the wellbeing of our nation. "On-line" worship is a welcome avenue, but it is not possible in all parishes due to prior infrastructure and broadband service. Again this could ag least be acknowledged and, where possible, addressed.

PARISH LOTTO

Kildare & Leighlin Co-Op Lotto Results for

Wednesday 10th. February 2021

Numbers:17, 22, 23, 24

No Winner. Next week's Jackpot €14,000

9 Match 3s win €112 each.

This coming week the draw will be held on Tuesday 16 instead of Wednesday 17th.

A wonderful way of supporting our Parish financially is through the Lotto. If you would like to renew your lotto subscription (those are due for renewal) and if anyone wishes to join our lotto, you can get forms in the Parish Centre. If you wish to know when you are due for renewal you can contact the Parish Office or contact Fr. John

If you would like to receive a weekly email with our Parish newsletter, please provide us with your email address.