

Thought for the week

FEAST DAY OF ST BRIGID -
ABBESS AND SECONDARY PATRON OF IRELAND

By Fr Billy Swan

On Monday 1st February, we celebrated the Feast Day of St Brigid or Mary of the Gael. Here I explore how the example and witness of St Brigid takes us back to the primacy of charity and love at the heart of the Church. The earliest surviving hagiography of Brigit was written by the Kildare monk Cogitosus (c. 620-680), within 150 years of her death. In his account, Brigid is portrayed consistently as compassionate and merciful. She is a woman of charity 'to the poor and to wayfarers...having given all away to the poor'. On one occasion when a man had suffered a grave injustice, we are told she was 'moved with pity...filled with deep grief for the unfortunate man who had been unfairly condemned'. Cogitosus speaks of 'the excellence of her holiness', 'her marvellous hospitality' and how 'no poor person left her presence empty-handed'. He also writes of her charity and kindness to lepers and animals. A later hagiography tells the story of how, when she was asked during a ceremony to choose a particular beatitude to live by, she chose 'the beatitude of mercy'. The fruit of Brigid's witness to mercy was unity. In his prologue to *The Life of Brigid*, Cogitosus refers to 'this woman who drew to herself from all the provinces of Ireland inestimable numbers of people of both sexes'. All were 'filled with admiration for the girl who was incomparable in her faith and in the merit of her good works' and that 'people were drawn to her from all parts by the great fame of her virtue and exceeding generosity'. In Brigid, the Irish Church has an exemplar of charity and hospitality. These are the virtues without which the Church would disintegrate. She is someone who calls us back to mercy and who points the way to an ecumenism of love. She connects the unity of Christians and the charity between them, as Christ did at the Last Supper when he prayed that we be one and that we 'love one another as I have loved you' (John 13:34). To the measure we love one another, to that extent we are united. Put simply, 'where there is sin, there is division. Where there is charity, there is unity.'

If love and mercy are the key to unity within the Church, then it is also the key to her mission *ad extra* to the world. *To be continued next week....*

Have a Wonderful Week

PARISH NEWSLETTER

7th. February – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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: frjohn51@gmail.com.

Website: www.clonmoreparish.ie



Jesus the Healer

In today's Gospel we read about Jesus' first healing in Mark's Gospel. Jesus hears of the illness of the mother of Simon's wife and goes to her. Due to the purity laws of his time this scene would have been considered controversial. His first healing is of a woman and we are told that he touches her, raises her up; he completely restores her to health. Many of his actions here would have been considered inappropriate. The 'whole city' was crowded around the door as many people wanted to be healed. What a commotion! Jesus, very early on in his ministry is clearly a very popular and attractive figure. Another important aspect of this story is that Jesus does not remain comfortable in this house. He keeps moving, keeps going outward. This requires so much energy and an outpouring of love for those in need. Jesus shows us in today's Gospel what it takes to stay energised for our various ministries: quiet time and space for real encounter with God. Even then, the people hunted for him and said, 'Everyone is searching for you', and still today, everyone is searching. We too are called to bring healing to others in any way that we can, to those who are seeking, those who are lost, those who are isolated. Jesus shows us that to do this we must be connected to that Divine Presence within us and in our world. Today we can ask ourselves, what do I need healing from? Bring this to Jesus in prayer. And also, how can I reach out, with a healing presence, to others, especially during this time of pandemic?

'I ask God to prepare our hearts to encounter our brothers and sisters, so that we may overcome our differences rooted in political thinking, language, culture and religion. Let us ask him to anoint our whole being with the balm of his mercy, which heals the injuries caused by mistakes, misunderstandings, and disputes. And let us ask him for the grace to send us forth, in humility and meekness, along the demanding but enriching path of seeking peace'. (Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 254)

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS

Health does not always come from medicine. Most of the time it comes from peace of mind, peace in our heart and peace of soul. It comes from laughter and love.

Anniversaries - with love we remember

Sunday 6th. February: Mickey Doyle, Knockballystine, Edward Dempsey, Mullinacuff and his son Christy.



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

ASSISTANCE 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

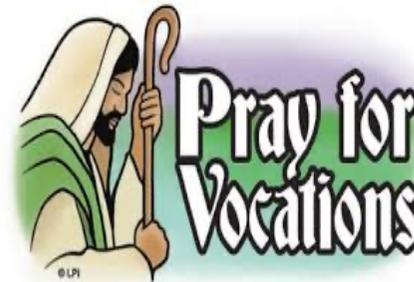
Alone manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties to the outbreak of Covid-19. Professional staff are available reassurance where necessary. The support line is one seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024

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

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 at least be acknowledged and, where possible, addressed.

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS



*"If today you hear His voice,
harden not your hearts."*

Open your heart to the possibility that Christ is calling you to a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life. Speak to your local priest or your Diocesan Vocation's Director, or email the National Vocations Office on info@vocations.ie

PARISH LOTTO

Kildare & Leighlin Co-Op Lotto Results

for Wednesday 3rd. February 2021

Numbers: 07, 09, 26, 32

No Winner. Next week's Jackpot €13,000

10 Match 3s win €100 each.

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