

## LOYALTY, STRENGTH & RESOLVE

**R**uth, the wife of Mahlon was the daughter-in-law of Naomi and her relationship with Naomi is one of the best known in the Bible. We know nothing about Ruth's background, origin or family, except that she is a Moabite, meaning that she is from the country of Moab. Despite that she was looked down on by some Hebrews at the time as a foreigner, the Bible describes her through her character, her loyalty, her strength and her resolve. Ruth stands out as the picture of a good daughter-in-law to Naomi. She is wholly devoted and loyal to her husband's family, which she makes her own. After Mahlon dies, she stays with her mother-in-law, while Orpha (Naomi's other daughter-in-law, whose husband Chilion also dies) leaves. Ruth takes care of her mother-in-law, who, in return, helps her daughter-in-law find an appropriate husband.

The text goes on to depict Ruth taking the initiative to find food. By chance (usually a code for the divine) she comes to the field of a wealthy man named Boaz who is a relative of Naomi. He asks her the patriarchal question "To whom does this woman belong?" The answer fails to give her name but identifies her as "the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab". It derived her identity from her strangeness and from another woman.

Boaz allows Ruth to glean in his field and arranges for her safety. She responds with suitable respect, noting his favour and her foreignness. Yet ironic subtlety marks her words. The favour Boaz gives her is the favour that she has sought. Therefore she (and chance), not Boaz, is shaping her destiny. Boaz sees her individuality. He describes her as one who has left her mother and father and her native land to live among a people she did not know.

## STRUGGLE

**T**he text also represents Ruth's struggle to survive culturally. At the insistence of Naomi, Ruth agrees without question to pursue marriage to Boaz. A custom of the day dictated that a relative could marry a childless widow. Their firstborn son would then be considered the continuation of the deceased father's line. Naomi sees this ancient practice as a way to help her daughter-in-law. She proposes that Ruth visits Boaz on the threshing floor after he has celebrated the harvest and gone to sleep. Ruth does as she is told and Boaz is impressed by this Moabite woman who shows so much love and loyalty to her mother-in-law.

## A HAPPY ENDING

**T**here is a happy ending to the story of Ruth as Boaz falls in love with her. He negotiates with a kinsman of Naomi and Ruth who in ancient law would have had first right to marriage (and Naomi's land). More modern readers of the text would be encouraged that Naomi and Ruth didn't act like victims of circumstance or blaming God for their misfortune. The dynamic duo went through major hardships together; death, famine and exclusion, but their loyalty to each other and finally to God ensures that their difficulties are transformed to joy over the course of their lifetimes. Ruth's faithfulness to her mother-in-law, and her embracing of her mother-in-law's religion as well, makes Ruth, although born a foreigner, an example to converts as well as to those born into the faith. ■



### Today's readings

Jm 20:10-13  
Rm 5:12-15  
Mt 10:26-33

### GOD'S WORD TODAY

Today's Gospel passage contains a warning to the disciples. When they preach the Word of God, they will encounter bitterness and hatred. Jesus has already experienced adversity in his ministry and is very aware that the same animosity awaits his followers. But the key statement from Jesus is one of hope: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul."

The future trials of the disciples are being predicted by Jesus and in many ways the same warnings are applicable for the Church today. We face many trials in the form of decreased numbers attending mass, our teachings and beliefs are under constant challenge and scrutiny by an increasingly secular world and there are many conflicting proposals as to the future direction our Church must take in order to survive.

But amidst the adversity that Jesus and his disciples will face, he says to his followers, "Do not be afraid." True disciples of Jesus are always ready for the difficulties that will come.

We are supported by a compassionate and loving Christ who cares for us and encourages us through uncertainty.

# SoulSpace

25 June 2017 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Psalter Week 4

SERIES: WOMEN FROM THE BIBLE

Season colour: GREEN

In this series, Máire Byrne examines key female figures from the Old and New Testaments.



## RUTH — FAMILY LOYALTY

**T**he Book of Ruth is a story about family loyalty. A mother-in-law and her daughter-in-law share joys and distresses as Ruth, a foreigner, shows as much love and devotion to her mother-in-law Naomi, as would a full-blooded offspring. Trial and suffering are on the cards for these two women but they endure together and sharing their anguish makes them closer.





**TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**25<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

No matter what the trials in this life may be, we are assured of God's love for us. St. Matthew in today's Gospel - tells us not to be afraid - What greater reassurance is needed.

**WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY**

"Dialogue is essential for experiencing, expressing and fostering love in marriage and family life." Amoris Laetitia, Par 136

**PETER'S PENCE ENVELOPE** Please note that there is an additional envelope today entitled PETER'S PENCE. Proceeds from this collection in the Irish Church help fund the Central Administration of the Church in Rome and the various Church agencies which assist the Holy Father. Envelopes can be returned at any Mass next weekend. Thank you.

**CAMINO DE SANTIAGO** This week, Bishop Kevin is leading a youth group from the diocese walking a week of the Camino de Santiago. Please remember these young pilgrims in your prayers.

**PRAYER FOR VOLUNTEERS**

As we celebrate Sligo as the European Capital of Volunteering we thank the Lord for the many people who share their time and their talents in service of our community.

May they be a reminder to us all of the call to be doers of the Gospel, reaching out in support to others through initiatives aimed at building up our community and parish, and may all volunteers be filled with the joy of giving. Lord hear us.

**WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018** WMOF2018 has now launched its volunteer programme. If you wish to register to become a WMOF2018 volunteer please go to [worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer](http://worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer)

**BLESSED SACRAMENT CAR PARK**

We plead with our parishioners, Mass goers and others to please not use the Blessed Sacrament car park for either general parking or parking while at Mass but to use the main car park. The lack of space in the Blessed Sacrament Car Park is turning our regular and rostered adorers off and we can't afford to offend them. Thank you for your cooperation.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK** Merciful Lord, grant me pardon and peace that I may serve you with a quiet mind. Amen.

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY NEXT, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Rom. 6:3-4. 8-11; Gospel: Mt. 10:37-42.

**BINGO - GILLOOLY HALL - TONIGHT, SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> June at 9.00 PM**  
 TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €1,650.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

**SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES**

SUNDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> June

PARISH ENV: €2,420 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,284

THANK YOU for your contribution.

ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY ☎ 071 9162670 SACRISTY ☎ 071 9161261

✉ email us: [info@sligocathedral.ie](mailto:info@sligocathedral.ie) We welcome your comments.

**DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL**  
**SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JULY**

We celebrate the anniversary of the Dedication of our Cathedral on 1<sup>st</sup> July each year. On this occasion we remember when the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was dedicated to Our Lady by Bishop Lawrence Gillooly in 1897. All are invited to attend the **10:30 a.m. Mass** on this occasion.



**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER** Please note that during the months of July and August our weekly newsletter is issued every second week. With this in mind next week's newsletter will cover Sundays 2<sup>nd</sup> July *and* 9<sup>th</sup> July. Please also keep in mind the cut off time for receiving notices is midday on the Wednesday immediately prior to the date of issue.



**NOVENA TO SAINT MARIA GORETTI, COLLOONEY**

**THEME: SACRAMENTS**

28<sup>th</sup> June - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017

In the Church of the Assumption, Collooney

Mass daily at 8.00pm with confessions from 7.30pm and Rosary at 7.40pm. Guest Speakers include: Most Rev Dr. Brendan Kelly, Bishop of Achonry; Fr. Eugene Duffy, Limerick; Fr. Tommy Towey P.P. Ballisodare; Fr. Steve Gibson C.S.C., Attymass; Fr. Paul Kivelehan, Ballaghaderreen; Fr. David Barnes O.P., Kildare and Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. Ballyhaunis. Evenings include prayers for children and anointing of the sick. Please see leaflets at our Cathedral entrance.

**AREA MASS**

**Treacy Avenue:** at 8pm on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

If you wish to host an Area or Station Mass in your home for your area please contact your area priest or The Presbytery on 071 9162670.

**DIOCEAN PILGRIMAGES**

**KNOCK** Bishop Kevin will lead the annual Elphin Diocesan pilgrimage to Knock on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

**LOURDES** The Elphin Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 28<sup>th</sup> August - 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017. . Booking forms are available direct from Joe Walsh Tours on 01 2410810. For sick/ assisted pilgrims who wish to travel, please contact Fr. Ray Milton on 090 6661115.

**LOURDES – YOUTH SECTION** Nominations are requested from youth of the parish, 17 years and over, to participate in the Lourdes Pilgrimage from 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 to 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017. The fare is €610 – half of the fare is subsidised by the parish, with the nominee paying the balance. Please contact Parish Office/Priest if you are interested. Nominees will be expected to participate fully in all aspects of the pilgrimage itinerary, choir, liturgy, working with the Assisted Pilgrims and participating in entertainment programme. Full details available from Parish Office.

**CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Upcoming **EVENTS** THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 28<sup>th</sup> June "Wednesday Tea" after 10.30am Mass.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July Confessions 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**CHURCH GATE COLLECTION** this weekend, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> June, in aid of the assisted pilgrims section of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2017. Please support.

**VISITING SUNDAY AT HOLY HILL HERMITAGE** is a week early, this Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. (Date changed so the Gospel Choir from St. Patrick's in Ballina could join us.) Mass will begin at noon, and Bro Thomas will be cooking hot dogs and sausages afterwards. All welcome.

**HOLY HOUR** on 27<sup>th</sup> June from 4pm to 5pm at Sisters of Charity, Temple St., Sligo for alcohol abuse and drug abuse. (Venerable Matt Talbot)

**URSULINE NETWORK** - Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June in the Convent (opposite Cathedral entrance) at 7.00pm. New members welcome.

**NORTH WEST STROKE GROUP** next meeting Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm at the Irish Wheelchair Association premises in Abbeyville, Sligo.

**ALL IRELAND RALLY FOR LIFE (SAVE THE 8<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT)** takes place on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> July at 2pm starting at Parnell Square, Dublin 1. More information on [www.rallyforlife.net](http://www.rallyforlife.net) Please Stand up for Life by Joining the Rally. Bus Leaves Sligo Park Hotel at 9am on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> July. To book a seat contact Fionnuala on 087 7552754.

**MICHAELA FOUNDATION** are currently recruiting enthusiastic individuals aged 17+ to volunteer at their Summer Camp for girls in Mercy College, Sligo Town from 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July. Those interested in volunteering should visit [www.michaelafoundation.com](http://www.michaelafoundation.com)

**YOUTH 2000 ANNUAL SUMMER FESTIVAL** will take place from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017 in the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. This is a donation only Catholic festival for young people aged 16-35. [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)

**PILGRIMAGE TO MEDIGORJE 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017** 7 nights half board in Guesthouse will cost €719 per person inclusive, ex Knock day flight. For more information please contact group leader Tom Moran at 086 0815635 or [www.joewalshstours.ie](http://www.joewalshstours.ie)

**MIDLAND MOVE** is currently taking referrals for the upcoming programme for men who are abusive in their intimate relationships. For further information please contact: Cyril at 086 1720564 or 096 472174, email us at [cyril.acsc@gmail.com](mailto:cyril.acsc@gmail.com) or [acscltd@eircom.net](mailto:acscltd@eircom.net)

**COLLECTION FOR THE "COMMISSIONS OF THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE" - 9TH JULY**

The Catholic Church in Ireland provides a range of pastoral services which are organised nationally and funded by a levy on each Diocese in accordance with its population. These include the Catholic Education Service, pastoral services to emigrants and to prisoners overseas and to immigrants, the bishops drugs initiative, the engagement of the bishops conference healthcare, justice and peace, and communications as well as the National Board for Safeguarding Children. The envelope for this collection is in your family box and your generous support for these initiatives will be greatly appreciated.

**THANK YOU** The Missionary Sisters of St. Columban (Ireland) would like to thank the people of our parish who were most generous in response to Sr. Mary's talk at Masses recently. The total amount collected was €2,222.38, £1.50 and \$20.00.

**Anniversary & remembrances**



| DAY                    | 8.00am                  | 10.30am   |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| TUES 27 <sup>th</sup>  |                         | <b>Birthday Remembrance</b><br>EMMET O'CONNOR ✠ |
| THURS 29 <sup>th</sup> | NOREEN & ALBERT STANLEY |   |
| SAT 1 <sup>st</sup>    | DALTON GREENE           | NOREEN FOX                                      |

**Rest in Peace**

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: LEO WARD, Jink's Avenue; SHEILA NOONE (nee LYNCH), Cummeeen, Strandhill Rd.; BARTHOLOMEW (BART) ROONEY, father of Fr. Noel Rooney, St. Joseph's Parish, Sligo and PATRICK KEANEY, Cartron Close.

*May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved families and friends.*