

TRAPPED

I sat one day in the General Assembly of the United Nations and listened spellbound as Donna spoke. She was a flight attendant with a major commercial airline and a certified trainer in the fight against human trafficking with Airline Ambassadors International.

As a child, Donna grew up in a very dysfunctional family and after high school her life became a series of abandonment, abuse, addiction, gang crime, prostitution, trafficking, rape and violence. She was sold to a pimp and became gang property on the streets of Los Angeles. For a while, she managed to get her life back to some semblance of normality. She married at 18, had three little girls in quick succession and then it all began to fall apart again. Her husband, who was abusive and dealing drugs, left her and the three small children. Now what? Donna felt she had no option but to turn to a life she knew would make her easy cash. At whatever cost to herself, one thing was clear, her little ones had to have a better chance.

MOVING ON

When she tried to move on, the pimp told her he would use one of her girls instead. She was trapped, afraid and sinking deeper and deeper into a hole of no return. A prison sentence followed and it was in the prison system, she told us, that she met someone who actually believed in HER. During her ten years in jail, she discovered the gospel and one piece of scripture in particular changed her life

forever. "Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow. He had not done anything wrong and there was no perjury in his mouth". "He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge" (1P 2:21-23).

In 1994, Donna founded the Women at the Well Transition Centre: a non-profit ministry helping formerly incarcerated persons throughout the USA. In 2000 she was ordained a pastor. Donna has dedicated her life to fighting prostitution and sex trafficking in the Greater Atlanta area. She also serves as a consultant with the Office of Women's Health, addressing the trauma impact on women who have been trafficked.

Her children and grandchildren attended the UN event to hear their mother and grandmother speak. ■



Today's readings

Am 6:14-7
1 Tm 6:11-16
Lk 16:19-31

GOD'S WORD TODAY

In Jesus' time many people believed that wealth and good fortune were a sign of God's favour, and that bad luck was a punishment from God. This belief was so ingrained that it was often assumed that the poor and the destitute were automatically damned, and that the rich and healthy were destined for heaven.

Jesus' story about the rich man and Lazarus completely reverses these beliefs: in it the rich man ends up in torment while the poor beggar goes to paradise. No wonder his listeners were shocked by what Jesus had to say.

They would have been shocked too by the reason why the rich man was condemned. After all, the rich man did nothing to Lazarus. He did not physically harm him. He didn't get his guards to beat him up or to remove him from outside his house. He didn't starve him or inflict the sores that Lazarus had on his body. He seemed to do nothing to deserve eternal punishment. And yet he is condemned.

The reason the rich man is condemned is precisely because he did nothing. He turned a blind eye to the poor man at his gate. He was so caught up in his own life that he was oblivious to the plight of Lazarus. He just wasn't interested in him. As far as he was concerned, Lazarus was not his responsibility. And that's why he is condemned; the rich man is punished not for what he did but because he simply didn't care.

Stou(ce)space

25 September 2016 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Psalter Week 2

SERIES: EXPLORING THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

Season colour: GREEN

In this series, Deirdre Mullan RSM, explores the Spiritual Works of Mercy.



BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY

Some sources express this Spiritual Work of Mercy as, "Be patient with those in error." Which of us does not need patience? This true story is a shining example of our God who never loses faith in us. God is patient with us, so we, the children of God, are asked to show the same mercy and compassion with each other.

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TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 25th September 2016

One of the great preoccupations today is the maintenance of a high standard of living. Today's readings gave us a prophetic warning—this life-style leads to complacency and indifference to the needs of the poor. Any such indifference can only earn us the condemnation of God whose mercy for the poor is linked to his judgement to the oppressed.

MISSION SEPTEMBER 25TH - 30TH

Sligo Parishes Cluster Mission starts Sunday 25th September, 2016, in the Cathedral at 7.30pm and will continue each evening at 7.30pm and 9pm until Friday 30th September. The mission is being conducted by the Redemptorist Mission Team from Limerick. School mission activities will take place during the week of the mission.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Sunday (25th September) Morning Masses 8.30am, 10.30am & 12noon and Evening Mass at 7pm followed by Opening of Mission at 7.30pm.

Monday - Friday at **7.00am** Mission Mass in the Cathedral (replacing regular 8am Mass)

Monday - Friday at **7.30am** Mission Café in the Gillooly Hall for a spot of breakfast after Mass.

Monday - Friday at **10.30am** Mid morning Mass in the Cathedral including a brief reflection from a mission team member on the theme of the day.

Monday - Friday at **7.30pm**. Evening session in the Cathedral.

Sunday - Thursday at **9.00pm** Night time prayer on the theme of the day by candlelight in the Cathedral.

MISSION THEMES

Sun 25th Sept God calls us to gather!

Mon 26th Sept Gathering around the God who speaks with us

Tues 27th Sept Gathering around the God who gives us the Eucharist. Part 1

Wed 28th Sept Gathering around the God who gives us the Eucharist. Part 2

Thurs 29th Sept Gathering around the God who heals us

Fri 30th Sept Gathering around the God who anoints and commissions us

Concluding event of the Mission is 7.30pm on Friday, 30th September.

This mission will surely be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to renew our faith, and maybe for some of us 'to start again', and thus begin again to appreciate the joys of active faith practice! So all are invited to participate in the mission, and parents do please encourage your children to get involved not only in the school mission activities, but also in the standard mission ceremonies.

For further information please log into www.sligocathedral.ie

BAPTISMS We welcome into God's family LOGAN FARRELL and KEVIN MASLINSKI recently baptised in our Cathedral.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES
SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER PARISH ENV: €1,861 PL/STAND. ORD: €1516.55
THANK YOU for your contribution.
ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY ☎ 071 9162670 SACRISTY ☎ 071 9161261

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY - POPE FRANCIS' WORDS

"Only those who humble themselves before the Lord can experience the greatness of his mercy."

BINGO - GILLOOLY HALL - TONIGHT, 25th September at 9.00 p.m.
This week's jackpot is €2,300.

DATES TO REMEMBER

TRIDENTINE LATIN MASS today, Sunday 25th September at 3pm in St. John's Church, Carraroe.

CREATIVE WRITING CLASSES at Yeats Memorial Building, Sligo. Morning course starts Tuesday 27th September for 8 weeks: 10.30am -12.30pm. Evening course starts Wednesday 28th September for 8 weeks: 6.30pm – 8.30 pm. Courses are suitable for all levels of writing including beginners. Instructed by Gerard Beirne, . Ph: 083 8561559 for more information or to register.

HEART SUPPORT GROUP meeting will be held in Sligo Park Hotel on Wednesday, 28th September at 7.00p.m. Speaker: Ms. Orla Barry, Manager in Citizen's Advice Centre. Topic: Schemes and Services available for older people.

YOUTH ALPHA Interested in supporting Christian Faith enquiry / development of teenagers? See www.elphindiocese.ie/youth-alpha for details of upcoming Youth Alpha Information & Training Evenings in Sligo (28th Sept.) and Athlone (5th Oct.). All welcome.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY DOOR The final parish pilgrimage to the Cathedral will take place on Saturday 1st October. Starting at Tobernalt Holy Well, Sligo at 11.30am and finishing approx 3pm, including a hot lunch. Groups and individuals are very welcome but please book in advance by phoning 071 9162670.



A 24 HOUR SILENT EUCHARISTIC VIGIL praying for the protection of the Unborn Child will take place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel beside the Cathedral on Friday, 7th October (Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary) from 9.00am until 9.00am on Saturday, 8th October. To sign up for your hour please contact 087 6274621 or sign the sheet on the door in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Thank you.

PARISH DEVELOPMENT & RENEWAL GATHERING Elphin Diocese's 2016 Parish Development & Renewal Gathering to take place on Saturday, 15th October. Details available at www.elphindiocese.ie/gathering. All welcome.

CONFIRMATION YOUTH FEST will take place in Boyle on Saturday 15th October. See www.elphindiocese.ie/youthfest for more information.

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES: Airport transport & 7 nights apartment B&B 279 Euro. Tel 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com. Call for flight information.

Anniversary & remembrances

DAY	8.00 A.M.	10.30 A.M.
TUES 27 th	—	MICHAEL MORAN
THURS 29 th	—	VINNIE MCGUINN
SAT 1 st	1st Anniversary ANN POWER 	Month's Mind LOUIS DYKES 

Rest in peace

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: JOSEPH MARTYN, late of Knappagh Rd. and Boston, son of Joe Martyn (Funeral arrangements later); MARK ROONEY, brother of Aidan Rooney, Oakfield Crescent and son in law of Tony & Patricia Fagan, Church Hill & AUSTIN O' MALLEY, St. Brigid's Place. *May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved families and friends.*