

A GLASS OF MILK

Eduardo was a child of migrant workers and so most of his early life was spent travelling from farm to farm as the seasons dictated and the fruit-picking demanded. As a result, Eduardo missed large chunks of his schooling. His family were immigrants into the USA and so life was hard anyway. Eduardo's salvation was that he was a dreamer and he believed he could go to university.

One day, in a hot and arid Californian summer, Eduardo found himself very hungry and thirsty. He decided to knock on the door of one of the big mansion houses near where his parents were fruit-picking and ask for some yard work in exchange for a sandwich. His courage left him, however, when a beautiful young woman opened the door and he asked instead for a drink of cold water. The young woman returned a short time later with a large glass of cold milk. Eduardo drank it thirstily and with gratitude he left. His belief in the basic goodness of humanity was renewed.

PAYING THE MILK BILL

Years later, after many struggles and much personal determination, Eduardo graduated and found himself in a large teaching hospital as a young doctor. He studied hard and moved upwards, remembering that kindness is one of our most basic human instincts.

One morning on a shift around the ward, he came upon a young woman who had been transferred to his hospital with a life-threatening illness. He looked at her notes and was determined to do all he could to save her

life. After many months and good medication, the young woman was ready to return home. She feared, however, the large medical bill she would receive and wondered how she would manage to pay. Eduardo had instructed the finance clerk to come to his office before giving the young woman her bill. He took it, wrote something and replaced it into the envelope. When the young woman received the bill, she opened it with some trepidation and found written on the side: Paid in full with one glass of milk.

The Works of Mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbour in his/her spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling and comforting are Spiritual Works of Mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently.

EDUCATING TO KINDNESS

The story above is about the value of an education imbued with kindness. All the knowledge in the world can never measure up to kindness, the greatest of all virtues. Obviously, in her home the young woman had been taught kindness. Whoever had instructed her probably never realised the impact of that teaching and how it would ultimately save her life and the life of a young immigrant boy with a cold drink!

In this year of Mercy, may each of us, in our own way, instruct and teach each other on the importance of kindness, remembering that it is not enough to be compassionate. We must ACT! ☸



Today's readings

W's 9:13-18
Phm 9-10.12-17
Lk 14:25-33

In today's Gospel, Jesus demands no less than total commitment from his followers. He doesn't mince his words and uses what appears to be quite disturbing language. He says that if anyone comes to him without hating father, mother, family, or even his or her own life, that person cannot be his disciple. The word 'hating' shows the extent of the commitment required. It doesn't mean literally hating those close to us or hating ourselves. It's about priorities, what comes first. We must be prepared to put aside everything and everybody, even those closest to us, even our own lives, and to endure the sufferings of discipleship before we can truly be called followers of Jesus. Nothing can be higher on our list of concerns than Jesus and his kingdom. The two parables that Jesus tells indicate the reflection that is necessary before we decide to dedicate ourselves to Christ. We must be fully aware of what it is we are committing ourselves to; we must count the cost of discipleship; we must know exactly what its implications are. And we must be prepared to carry through our commitment to the very end, even if this means giving up all we have.

GOD'S WORD TODAY

In today's Gospel, Jesus demands no less than total commitment from his followers. He doesn't mince his words and uses what appears to be quite disturbing language. He says that if anyone comes to him without hating father, mother, family, or even his or her own life, that person cannot be his disciple. The word 'hating' shows the extent of the commitment required. It doesn't mean literally hating those close to us or hating ourselves. It's about priorities, what comes first. We must be prepared to put aside everything and everybody, even those closest to us, even our own lives, and to endure the sufferings of discipleship before we can truly be called followers of Jesus. Nothing can be higher on our list of concerns than Jesus and his kingdom. The two parables that Jesus tells indicate the reflection that is necessary before we decide to dedicate ourselves to Christ. We must be fully aware of what it is we are committing ourselves to; we must count the cost of discipleship; we must know exactly what its implications are. And we must be prepared to carry through our commitment to the very end, even if this means giving up all we have.

Stou(ce)space

4 September 2016 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time **Year C**

Psalter Week 3

SERIES: EXPLORING THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

Season colour: **GREEN**

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



INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT

Less well known than the Corporal Works of Mercy, the seven Spiritual Works of Mercy offer us additional ways in which we can show the discipleship of love by instructing the ignorant, counselling the doubtful, bearing wrongs patiently, admonishing sinners, forgiving offences, comforting the afflicted and praying for the living and dead.

LIFE OF FAITH

This counsel – Instruct the Ignorant – is not limited to imparting a list of truths, but is aimed at introducing people to a life of faith. Often, as the following true story will show, there is a two-way effect.

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Sunday 4th September 2016
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 The person who wants to follow Christ must not take it lightly; they have to sit down and count the cost and the cost is everything they have. To be able to give everything for Christ is a wisdom beyond this world that comes only from the Holy Spirit.

TODAY — 3.00 P.M.
CANONISATION OF BLESSED MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA
 CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
 The Exhibition on the life and work of Blessed Mother Teresa in our Cathedral continues to September 14th with the **Annual Novena** in her honour as follows:-
Sunday September 4th—3:00 p.m. Gillooly Hall
 Viewing of the **Mass of Canonisation** of Saint Teresa.
Monday September 5th
Feast of Saint Teresa of Calcutta
MASS at 7:00 p.m. with chief celebrant
Most Rev Christopher Jones, Bishop Emeritus, Elphin
 followed by veneration of relics.



CATHEDRAL REPAIRS Unfortunately our beautiful Cathedral is experiencing problem with dampness. Many of you will have noticed that this problem has been getting worse over the last while especially in the transepts. We need to tackle this before it deteriorates any further and costs a lot more to address. We are beginning by repairing the roofs of the stairwells that lead up to the galleries where a considerable amount of water is leaking in. We hope to address each of the areas that are experiencing dampness in stages. All of this work is expensive so we ask you please to keep this in mind as you make your weekly contribution. An increase in your weekly offering, no matter how small, would help us to meet some of the expense involved.

CONFIRMATION YOUTH FEST Notice to Sixth Class pupils & parents / guardians: The Elphin Diocese's 2016/17 Confirmation Youth Fest will take place in Boyle on Saturday 15th October. See www.elphindiocese.ie/ youthfest for more information. Promises to be a very interesting day!

KNOCK FILM Strange Occurrences in a Small Irish Village—the film about the phenomenon that is Knock, County Mayo opened in Irish cinemas last weekend—receiving high praise and glorious reviews from cinema-goers and media alike. Showing in Carrick-on-Shannon, Athlone, Tullamore, Mullingar and other cinemas. A must see!

IRISH MISSIONARY SPEAKER—SLIGO Tuesday 6th September at 8pm in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Sligo. A Visitor's Evening focusing on Missionary Work in Brazil. Everyone is invited to hear the special speaker Naomi Keefe, an Irish missionary, who has worked in Brazil for over 11 years. Naomi has an amazing story of endurance and selflessness working with the "rubbish tip" communities. Please come along and bring a friend.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES
 SUNDAY 28th AUGUST PARISH ENV: € 2,064.00
PL/STAND. ORD: €1,300.00 THANK YOU for your contribution.

BINGO - GILLOOLY HALL - TONIGHT, 4th September at 9.00 p.m.
 This week's jackpot is €2,150.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY - POPE FRANCIS' WORDS
An easy prayer to say everyday:
"Lord, I am a sinner: come with your mercy."

SLIGO PARISHES CLUSTER MISSION
 Sligo Churches' Cluster Mission starts Sunday 25th September, 2016, in the Cathedral at 7.30pm and will continue each evening at 7.30pm until Friday 30th September. The mission is being conducted by the Redemptorist Mission Team from Limerick. These evening sessions (which do not include Mass) will be a central focal point for all the Sligo churches. However, there will be additional mission activities in each individual parish, such as short mission presentations at daily Mass. **Please take note that the 8am Mass in the Cathedral will (from Monday 26th to Friday 30th Sept) be re-scheduled to 7am, and will be combined with mission presentations.** Also limited but important school mission activities will take place during the week of the mission.

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.

PARTNERS in the GOSPEL
 Bishop Kevin invites lay people to apply for a new ministry in the diocese, Volunteer Catechist. Successful applicants will undergo a four year training and formation programme and, on completion, will be formally commissioned as official leaders of faith-based education programmes and opportunities for partnership in mission with the priests and parish communities. For more info see www.elphindiocese.ie

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.

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 September) and Athlone (5th October). All welcome.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK Lord help me to be a source of support to others by my own desire to serve you with love and devotion. Amen.
READINGS FOR SUNDAY NEXT 11th SEPT 1st Reading: Ex. 32:7-11. 13-14; 2nd Reading: 1 Tim. 1:12-17; Gospel: Lk. 15:1-32
FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK Thurs 8th Nativity of Mary; Fri 9th St. Ciaran, Abbot.

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Upcoming EVENTS
THE WEEK AHEAD
 Sunday 4th Special viewing of **Mass of Canonisation of St Teresa of Calcutta** in **Gillooly Hall at 3.00 p.m.**
 Weds. 7th **Wednesday Tea'** Upstairs in Cathedral Sacristy immediately after 10:30 a.m. Mass
 Saturday 10th **Confessions** 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday 11th **Baptisms** Cathedral 1.00 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER
ST BERNADETTE'S CHAPEL Rockwood Parade. Monthly Mass will be celebrated on Monday **September 5th** at **5.15 p.m.** All welcome.
BUS TO KNOCK for Our Lady Of the Miraculous Medal on 10th & 11th Sept & also on 17th & 18th September for Padre Pio. Cost €120 to be paid 1 week in advance for overnight accom., meal & bus. (call 074 9320734 or 089 2245598).
FR. FLANAGAN PRAYER GROUP - Next Meeting - **Tuesday, 13th September at 8.00p.m.** in St. Mary's Presbytery. All are most welcome.
ANNUAL CHARITY AMATEUR GOLF EVENT Thursday 15th September at Co Sligo Golf Club, followed by a Gala Dinner Event at 8pm in the Radisson Blu Hotel in aid of the North West Hospice & The NW Simon Community. To book golf and/or gala dinner places call 071 9140008 or email info.sligo@radissonblu.com.
LISSADELL CHURCH Presents 'A Night of Country & Gospel' with singer James Kilbane in concert on Sat. 24th September @ 8pm. Tickets €15 from Drumcliffe Teahouse, Grange Pharmacy, Veritas Sligo or by calling Heather 087 1655880.
PUBLIC MEETING In Northside Centre, Forthill, Sligo Weds 7th Sept 7-9pm on development & rollout of the Co Sligo PEACE IV Action Plan tackling remaining challenges in building lasting peace. Register at peaceactionplan@sligococo.ie


PARENTS OF 1st HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN A meeting of all parents of children making their 1st Holy Communion in 2017 will be held on Monday 19th September at 8pm in the Gillooly Hall.

WEDDINGS Congratulations and best wishes to JOHN FLEMING and IRENE BYRNE who were married recently in our Cathedral.

SOLEMN PROFESSION OF VOWS - We pray every blessing on Sr. Mary Olivia Kelly of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus who this Saturday took the Solemn Profession of Vows with the Carmelite Community at Knock.

CEMETERY SUNDAY for **Sligo Cemetery** takes place next Sunday, 11th September with Mass being celebrated at 4.00 p.m.

Anniversary & remembrances 

| DAY | 8.00 A.M. | 10.30 A.M. |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| MON 5 th | NORA PORTER | SPECIAL INTENTION |
| TUES 6 th | Living & Deceased members of McNIFFE Family | GILROY & KELLY Family |
| WED 7 th | P.J. & MARY THORNTON & Deceased family members | — |
| THURS 8 th | CHRISTINA HESTER | PAUL MOYLAN & Deceased family members |
| SAT 10 th | FINTAN QUIGLEY | Month's Mind BATTY FLANNERY  |

Rest in peace Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of:
 MARIE RAFFERTY, Dublin & late of Castle St., sister of Joan Lynch, Bertie & Liam McGowan, Sligo; JOHN WINDER, Monaghan & late of Thornhill - former husband of Pauline Cushman; SEAMUS FALLON, Willowbrook, Dunally; LOUIE DYKES, Knappagh Road; BETTY MOONEY, Avondale and PATRICK GAULE, Rosses Point & late of Thornhill. *May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved families and friends.*