

SoulSpace

SERIES: EXPLORING THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

Season colour: GREEN

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



FORGIVE OFFENCES PATIENTLY

This counsel is contrary to every impulse of our human nature! Most of us are frail, struggling, impulsive human beings who fail at it time and time again. Forgiving offences patiently is only possible with the help of God.

SUFFERING JEWS

Leonie was a Jewish child living in occupied France. Her family had been forced from their home and were living in a Jewish ghetto. Her parents and three siblings had known a different lifestyle before the Nazis descended on that city. Suddenly, life was turned upside down and was fraught with difficulties in the cramped conditions of the ghetto.

Food was short, sickness and disease abounded and danger was forever in the air. To make matters worse, her dad, who had a heart condition, was finding it more and more difficult to access his medication. Knowing that it was a matter of life and death, fifteen-year-old Leonie decided to risk it—to leave the ghetto and go to a family friend to get the much-needed medication. She had barely gone outside the barrier when the siren went off, indicating that a major search of the ghetto was underway. Frightened and alone, she boarded a tramway to her destination. Suddenly, the train came to an abrupt stop and German officers boarded, asking all passengers to show identification papers. Leonie knew she was in real danger. As the officer approached her and asked for papers, a nun opposite spoke up and said, "She is with us. She is one of our pupils." The officer nodded and moved to the next passengers.

Leonie got off the train with the Sister. She told her story and how she had left the ghetto to get medication for her sick father. She also said a major search was going on and that the Germans had probably discovered she was missing. The Sister took her to the convent to assess the situation.

RIGHTEOUS GENTILES

With medication in hand, Leonie and two of the Sisters returned to the outskirts of the ghetto. To Leonie's horror, the place had been cleaned out. There was not a living soul in sight. Panicked, frightened and anguished about the plight of

her parents and three little sisters, Leonie did not know where to turn. The Sisters took her back with them to the convent in full knowledge that they too were breaking the law. Leonie lived at the convent for the next two years and received private schooling until after the Liberation. Later, she discovered that all her family had perished in one of the concentration camps in the heart of Christian Europe. At age twenty-two she decided to emigrate to Australia. She was alone in this world.

COURAGE TO CARE

I had the privilege to meet Leonie in her home in Melbourne in 2007. She was married, had two sons and seven grandchildren. She had started a non-governmental organization called "The Courage to Care" in memory of her family and the Sisters who had saved her life. What struck me was her lack of bitterness at what life had dealt her; instead I found myself face to face with a woman filled with gratitude, who had spent the best part of her life educating succeeding generations about the importance of helping other human beings. Leonie was faced with two choices when she discovered what had happened. She was devastated, of course, but she did not allow the evil that had visited her family to determine who she was to become. Instead, she spent her life making a difference in the life of others. She lived out the counsel of forgiveness in the tradition of her elders, bearing witness to the great Jewish prayer: "Treat others as you wish them to treat you." ■



Today's readings

2 Kg 5:14-17
2 Tm 2:8-13
Lk 17:11-19

GOD'S WORD TODAY

In today's Gospel, Jesus is approaching a village when he is met by ten people who have a horrible skin disease. According to Jewish law, such persons had to be kept away from healthy-skinned people.

So these ten lepers keep their distance from Jesus. They know all about him and his reputation as a healer, and they beg him for mercy. Jesus does not heal them immediately but tells them to go and present themselves to the priests according to the requirements of Jewish law. On their way they are cured.

They are thrilled and excited. Being restored to health is the greatest thing that could happen to them, but even though ten ask for healing, only one takes the time to praise God in thanks. Instead of doing what is required by law, he comes back to say thanks to Jesus in person. This man also happens to be a Samaritan.

Jews had no time for Samaritans; they looked down on them, called them foreigners, and regarded them as religiously inferior. Yet it was this hated Samaritan who had the generosity to say thanks.

Jesus hated no one. His love and compassion extended to all people, no matter who they were or what their plight. Today's Gospel speaks of the need to be thankful to God for all God gives us and does for us. It also challenges us to think about our attitude to other people, who because of race, colour, creed, wealth, sexuality or health, are different from us.



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 9th October 2016

Eucharistic is the name that we give to our great act of worship, it is a name that means "giving thanks". Today's readings remind us that we owe God thanks not just for healing lepers two thousand years ago, but for blessing our lives with his love and restoring them with his forgiveness.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY - POPE FRANCIS' WORDS

"Dialogue with others, prayers for all: these are our means to give rise to love where there is hatred, forgiveness where there is offence".

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - NEW MEMBERS REQUIRED

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a voluntary organisation which provides supports to people in need. The supports are provided to families and individuals who are experiencing hardship. The help provided includes food, heating, educational and friendship. This work is totally carried out by voluntary members in a spirit of Christianity. The society is actively recruiting new members. For further information or application form, please contact SVP, Ozanam House, John Street, Sligo. Tel 071 9160713 or email: sligoarea@gmail.com.

Rosary for children & adults

Thursday Next, 13th October at 7pm

Children, their families and friends are all invited to this special celebration of the rosary in our Cathedral.

National day of prayer for children: Since 2007 the Society of Missionary Children has celebrated the National Day of Prayer for Children on the 2nd Friday of every October. This year the celebration is taking place outside Dublin for the first time on Friday, 14th October in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sligo. An invitation is extended across the country to bring your students, family or friends to the Cathedral and pray for all children everywhere. Please contact julieann@wmi.ie for more information.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR APPEAL FOR NEW MEMBERS: The Cathedral Choir would be delighted to welcome new members. The choir sings at 12.00 noon Mass on Sunday. Rehearsals are held every Monday night. Please contact Organist & Director of music: Charles O'Connor on 087 2169992.

CANCER CARER'S SUPPORT GROUP

A weekly support group for those caring for someone with cancer takes place at Sligo Cancer Support Centre, 44 Wine St from 7pm – 9pm every Monday evening.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

A support group for those who have lost a spouse or partner to cancer, began last Thursday 6th of October from 7pm-9pm and continues on a weekly basis at Sligo Cancer Support Centre, 44 Wine St, Sligo.

For more information contact the centre on 071 9170399.

BAPTISMS We welcome into God's family TOM JAMES FALLON and SADIE ELIZABETH YVONNE MULVANEY-GETHINS recently baptised in our Cathedral.

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming EVENTS THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 9th **D.T.I.M.** Enrolment Mass for 1st Communion children in the Cathedral at 10.30am.

Wed. 12th **Wednesday Tea'** Upstairs in **Cathedral Sacristy** immediately after 10.30a.m. Mass

Saturday 15th **Confessions** 2.00p.m. - 4.00p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER

ST. JOSEPHS YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY monthly meeting will be held in the Cathedral after the 10.30a.m. Mass on Monday, 10th October. New members welcome.

The **PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF ST. CECILIA'S SCHOOL** are organising for the third year a **product and toy exhibition** in the Sligo Park Hotel on Thursday, 13th October, 11.00am to 7.00pm. This is to showcase the variety of products suitable for special needs that is on the market and meet with providers of same. *It will be of interest to parents, family members, therapists, health care workers, teachers, special needs assistants and individuals with special needs.*

ALZHEIMER CAFÉ, The Glasshouse Hotel, Sligo, Friday 14th October from 11.00am to 1.00pm. This month's information session is being given by Kevin Mc Loughlin CMHN with the Psychiatry of Old Age Team and is on: 'Psychological interventions in conjunction with medication for the person with dementia' For more information contact: Majella O'Donnell 071 9146400/ 086 7796390 modonnell@alzheimier.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.

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

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA NATIONAL MASS of thanksgiving Knock Shrine Sunday 23rd October at 3p. Main celebrant: Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Browne. All are welcome.

MONASTIC EXPERIENCE WEEKEND The Sisters of St. Mary's Abbey, Glencairn, Co. Waterford welcome you from 28th - 30th October 2016. Please contact Sr. Sarah for further info, 087 1909830 or email vocations@glencairnabbey.org or view the website www.glencairnabbey.org

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

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION DATES 2017

First Communion

Scoil Ursula, 7th May 2017

Scoil Eoin Naofa, 14th May 2017

Gaelscoil Cnoc na Re, 21st May 2017

All at 12 Noon

FIRST CONFESSIONS - 30th MARCH 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

CONFIRMATION

Scoil Eoin Naofa at 12noon on Saturday, 20th May 2017

Scoil Ursula at 12 noon on Sunday, 28th May 2017

Gaelscoil Cnoc na Re at 11.30am on Thursday, 1st June 2017

SLIGO SOCIAL SERVICES are in need of good quality autumn/winter children's clothes, particularly for those aged 5-18 years. Any suitable donations can be dropped in the Sligo Social Services yard on The Lungy (behind the Hawkswell Theatre). Many Thanks for your support.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK Lord, let me rejoice in you. Let me share the happiness that comes from serving you. Amen.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY NEXT, 16th OCT 1st Reading: Ex. 17:8-13; 2nd Reading: 2 Tim. 3:14 - 4:2; Gospel: Lk. 18:1-8.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK **Tues 11th** St. Canice & St. John XXIII, pope; **Fri 14th** St. Callistus I, pope; **Sat 15th** St Teresa of Avila, patron of lacemakers and headache sufferers.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES

SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER PARISH ENV: €1,381 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,423

THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

✉ email us @ news@sligocathedral.ie We welcome your comments.

BINGO - GILLOOLY HALL - TONIGHT, 9th October at 9.00 p.m.

This week's jackpot is €2,400.

Anniversary & remembrances



DAY	8.00 A.M.	10.30 A.M.
MON 10 th	PATRICIA SHERIDAN	JOE CLARKE & Deceased family members
TUES 11 th		BOBBY MOLLOY (recently deceased)
WED 12 th	—	JAMES McCaffrey
THURS 13 th	—	MICHAEL KANE
FRI 14 th	NORA McHALE	—
SAT 15 th	—	Month's Mind AUSTIN O'MALLEY

Rest in peace

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: VINCENT RAFTERY, Strandhill Road.
May God grant him eternal rest and comfort and console his bereaved family and friends.