

## "LET GOD DEAL WITH YOU!"

**B**ella was not a conventional Catholic in the best sense of the word. Her attendance at church was erratic and it appeared Bella did what she wanted. She liked to sit in her rocking chair when the weather was fine, chat to her neighbours and watch the world go by. Her parish priest was fond of Bella and did all in his human power to get her to attend church regularly. He cajoled her, encouraged her and scolded her, but all to no avail. Bella did her own thing. One day, out of pure exasperation, he told her that God would have to deal with her as he had given up. He added that she was pushing God to the limits!

Bella looked at the priest for a long time, rolled back her head and laughed hysterically. At first, Fr. Tom was frightened, thinking that he had pushed her too far. Then Bella stopped rocking and looked at him squarely. "Father," she said, "Obviously your God and my God must be two different Gods. If you think MY God, the God to whom I pray, is going to give up on me or punish his Bella the way you imagine, you have no

clue who God is." For a moment the priest was dumbfounded and did not answer. Then he asked, "Tell me Bella, who is your God?" "My God loves me so much that nothing bad will ever happen to me. You see Father Tom, God is very fond of me."

### DEEP WELL

**T**his true story reaffirms my belief and experience of being with people who have such a deep well of faith that the thread of faith in their life weaves a way into my heart. Somehow my needs and theirs become a joint chorus of prayer. Indeed, those whom we think we are liberating are in fact our own liberators as we cannot be liberated without each other. ■

series ends



### Today's readings

Ex 17:8-13  
2 Tm 3:14-4:2  
Lk 18:1-8

### GOD'S WORD TODAY

The opening line of the Gospel makes it clear that this parable is a lesson about persevering in prayer. The parable involves a conflict between two stock characters. The widow stands for the most vulnerable kind of people in Israelite society. With no husband to ensure their rights, widows were at the mercy of others, including even male family members. We don't know what this woman's case was, except that she wants justice against her enemies – perhaps relatives who have refused to allow her a just share in her husband's inheritance. The

rather self-important judge, who neither fears God nor listens to public opinion, isn't going to allow a defenceless woman like her to get the better of him. At least, that's what he thinks.

For a time, he ignores all her demands for justice. At this point, Jesus includes some humour that gets lost in most of our translations. As is often the case in his parables, Luke lets us into the inner world of a character. Here he shows us the judge's innermost thoughts. Unbending he may be, but he realises he is going to have to yield to this defenceless woman. Why? Our translations usually say something like "because she will persist in coming and worry me to death." The original word in the parable can actually be translated as something close to "she will slap me in the face" or even "she will give me an uppercut." What the judge fears is that the exasperation of this powerless woman will know no bounds and that her persistence will finally spill over into violence. So a judge who doesn't fear God or care about public opinion is brought to his knees by the most defenceless of women, a poor widow! Jesus applies the parable to how God deals with persistent prayer.

God will reply to those who cry day and night, even though it may look as if their prayer is unanswered. The riddle of unanswered prayer is one of the great tests of faith and something the bible does not ignore. When the Israelites cry out under the burdens of slavery, God "hears" but does not immediately answer. The Book of Job is built around the problem of a good man who suddenly loses everything he has, to whom God seems deaf until God and Job finally become locked in a dramatic argument. In the last line of today's Gospel, something of a reverse takes place. The main character of the parable was an earthly judge and not a very good one at that. Another judge is coming, the Son of Man, who will be even more searching than the most stringent earthly judge.



# Soil Space

16 October 2016 – 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Psalter Week 1

SERIES: EXPLORING THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

Season colour: GREEN

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



## PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

**T**his counsel invites us to pray for both the living and the dead and at most stages in our lives, we are all in need of prayers. Praying for another in their need is an expression of both our love and our concern. In his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis encourages us to reach out to people in their everyday needs. Sometimes the people we are praying for, or about, are so tuned into the heart of God that to be in their presence is pure gift. Bella was one such person.

(continued on back page)



**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

The enemies of Jesus try to put him on the horns of a dilemma. Would he offend the Roman occupiers or the sensitive Jewish nationalism. Jesus rises above the situation by reminding them, that God is the supreme authority but yet we all have duties to the civic society in which we live.

**JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY - POPE FRANCIS' WORDS**  
"To live joyfully we must let go of anger, wrath, violence, and revenge."

**WELCOME** A warm welcome is extended to Sr. Carmelita of the Presentation Sisters of Mary who has come to Sligo to minister in the Cathedral Parish. We pray every blessing on her work and wish her peace, health and happiness during her time among us.

**REPAIR WORK** is about to commence on the second stairwell in our Cathedral to alleviate the dampness and ingress of water. We apologise for any inconvenience caused but this is very necessary work to help stop the deterioration of the infrastructure of our Cathedral. Thank you for your understanding.

**BAPTISMS** We welcome into God's family ZOE MELVILLE recently baptised in our Cathedral.

**ALTAR SOCIETY CAKE SALE**

 The Cathedral Altar Society will be holding their annual Cake Sale after the 10.30a.m. Mass in the **GILLOOLY HALL ON SUNDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER.**

Our Altar Society volunteers work tirelessly throughout the year adorning the Sanctuary with flowers and accessories beautifully. The fruits of their labour help enrich the celebration of Mass as well as numerous other ceremonies in our Cathedral. Donations of cakes, buns and jams and your support of the cake sale on the day will be much appreciated especially as this Cake Sale provides the sole opportunity to raise sufficient funds to help defray the cost of maintaining the Altar and its environs.



Please contact Helen on 9162003 for details.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK** We pray for those who have been deprived of the right to live in their own country. Grant them a home, the warmth of hope and the strength of faith. Amen.

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY NEXT, 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Eccles (Sir). 35:12-14. 16-19; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Tim. 4:6-8. 16-18; Gospel: Lk. 18:9-14.

**SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES**  
SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER PARISH ENV: €2,084 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,305  
THANK YOU for your contribution.  
**ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY** ☎ 071 9162670 **SACRISTY** ☎ 071 9161261  
✉ email us at [news@sligocathedral.ie](mailto:news@sligocathedral.ie) We welcome your comments.

**BINGO - GILLOOLY HALL - TONIGHT, 16<sup>th</sup> October at 9.00 p.m.**  
This week's jackpot is €2,450.

**YOUTH 2000 PRAYER MEETING - SLIGO** A new Youth 2000 prayer meeting for young people aged 16-35 takes place every Thursday in St Anne's Church, Sligo at 8pm. To learn more about Youth 2000 see [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)

**MUSIC WORKSHOP FOR PARISHES** Elphin Diocese will host Choir / Liturgical Music Workshop(s) for Parish Choirs and Directors of School Choirs on Monday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> (8 – 10 pm) in St. Anne's Day Chapel, Sligo & on Thursday Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> (8 – 10pm) in Mercy Convent Primary School Roscommon. All welcome. For more info see [www.elphindiocese.ie/choirs](http://www.elphindiocese.ie/choirs)

**Mission Sunday**

Next Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, is Mission Sunday, the annual worldwide Catholic celebration of mission in its fullest sense. Pope Francis describes mission "As a passion for Jesus and a passion for his people". Our financial and spiritual help enables missionaries to breathe faith, hope and charity into the lives of people who need it most. Sharing the message and sharing financially with those in developing countries is our Christian duty. Our prayers and financial offerings on Mission Sunday go towards supporting missionaries and their mission projects where the Church is new, young or poor. A special collection will be taken up next Sunday in aid of our brothers and sisters currently on mission, allowing them to continue their work. [www.wmi.ie](http://www.wmi.ie) Please give generously. Thank you.

**Commissioning Ceremonies**



**Altar Servers** On Mission Sunday we extend a warm welcome to our new Altar Servers who will be commissioned in our Cathedral next Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, at 10.30am Mass.

**Parish Pastoral Council members**

On Mission Sunday we extend a warm welcome to our new Parish Pastoral Council members who will be commissioned in our Cathedral next Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, at 12noon Mass.

**CAMINO DE SANTIAGO: YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE WITH BISHOP KEVIN DORAN. 20<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017.**

18 – 35 age group. Cost €650.

Includes flights, accommodation, 20kg Check-in luggage plus hand luggage, transfers and insurance. Places Limited. Walk from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela, total distance 120Km, approximately 20Km per day. Three preparation walks: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March and Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May. To secure place, applicants, not later than 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2017 must: pay **€100 Non-Refundable Deposit**; provide **signed letter from Doctor** indicating appropriate fitness/health to walk 120Km in 6 days; **complete application form** and agree to participate in a least **two** of the preparation walks. For more information, please see [www.elphindiocese.ie/camino2017](http://www.elphindiocese.ie/camino2017)

or contact: **Frank McGuinness**, Director of Youth Ministry on 087 9880690 or [frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie](mailto:frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie)

**CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**Upcoming EVENTS THE WEEK AHEAD**

Wed. 19<sup>th</sup> **Wednesday Tea'** Upstairs in **Cathedral Sacristy** immediately after 10.30a.m. Mass  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> **Confessions** 2.00p.m. - 4.00p.m.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**SLIGO CANCER SUPPORT CENTRE**, 44 Wine St. **CANCER CARER'S SUPPORT GROUP** from 7pm – 9pm every Monday evening. **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** from 7pm-9pm every Thursday evening. For more information contact the centre on 071 9170399.

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES** in Computers, Sugarcraft for Christmas and Italian will begin on 18<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm in Mercy College, Sligo. Enrolment and First Class on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October. For information email [mercycollegesligo@eircom.net](mailto:mercycollegesligo@eircom.net)

**ANAM CARA**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its next monthly Parent Evening on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> October from 7.30pm to 9pm in the Family Centre, Chapel Street, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. This event is open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether the death was recent or not.


An **INFORMATION DAY ON THE GREATER CHERNOBYL ORGANISATION** is being held in the Northside Community Centre on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October at 4pm. The President of the organisation Fiona Corcoran will be attending and doing a presentation on the great work been done by the people here in Sligo for this cause. Tea and coffee will be served. Everyone is welcome.

**ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA NATIONAL MASS** of thanksgiving Knock Shrine next Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 3pm. 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 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Please contact Sr. Sarah for further info, 087 1909830 or email [vocations@glencairnabbey.org](mailto:vocations@glencairnabbey.org) or view the website [www.glencairnabbey.org](http://www.glencairnabbey.org)

**EU ANTI-TRAFFICKING DAY** Every year, since 2007, 18<sup>th</sup> October has been designated *EU Anti-Trafficking Day*. One might have hoped on this, the 10<sup>th</sup> Anti-Trafficking Day, that we would not be facing the reality that, rather than decreasing, human trafficking is actually on the increase. Of particular concern is the trafficking of women and girls. This is the fastest growing crime internationally. *Act to Prevent Trafficking (APT)*, a faith-based organisation, works with more than seventy groups in the *Turn off the Red Light* campaign. For more information on the work of APT see [www.aptireland.org](http://www.aptireland.org)

**THANK YOU** Social Services would like to thank St. Mary's Parish parishioners for collecting €946.26 from the Church Gate Collection on 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

<b>Anniversary &amp; remembrances</b>		
DAY	8.00a.m.	10.30a.m.
TUES 18 <sup>th</sup>		Deceased members of the PALMER & DOWNS families
WED 19 <sup>th</sup>		GERRY MARSHALL
THURS 20 <sup>th</sup>		KITTY & PADDY FLANNERY
FRI 21 <sup>st</sup>	CLARE GARVEY	
SAT 22 <sup>nd</sup>		<b>Month's Mind</b> BERNARD McDONAGH 

**Rest in peace** Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: FLORRIE GILMARTIN, Jink's Avenue and ANNIE CAWLEY, Ballina, mother of Ann Casey, Strandhill Rd.  
*May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved family and friends.*