

SAMSON'S SECRET

The biblical story in which Samson falls in love with her and then the Philistines use her to learn the secret of his strength, leaves us with more questions than answers about Delilah. She is not, as many female characters in the Bible usually are, identified in terms of a man (i.e. their husband, father or brother). All we know is her name, and the place where she lives, in the valley of Sorek, which lay between the Israelite and Philistine territory. She and Samson are seemingly lovers but are not married. We wonder what her status is in society, is she a wealthy widow like Judith perhaps or a "harlot" as is commonly supposed?

Any reading of the story of Samson in Judges 16 will show that it is Samson who is the one with the looser attitude to morals. He visits a prostitute (who is not named as Delilah). Delilah is not even called a Philistine, though it is usually assumed that she is because Samson is attracted to women from Philistine and she has dealings with the Philistine rulers and is unlikely that the Philistines would seek to enlist the aid of an Israelite woman. Also she betrays Samson, the hero of the Israelites to his enemies and it unlikely that the author of the biblical text would portray one of their countrywomen carrying out such a scandalous act without allowing for further comment.

Delilah accepts a bribe to reveal the sources of Samson's strength to the Philistines. The bribe would add up if the woman was an Israelite as she would possibly require encouragement to betray a leader of her people. Each of the Philistine rulers pays her eleven hundred pieces of silver. On the other hand, if Delilah is a Philistine, perhaps the bribe simply highlights what a disloyal woman she is. The biblical text notes that Samson does love Delilah, but that she does not love

him, a hint perhaps, that she would have no reservations about betraying him.

CAPTURE

Three times Delilah tries unsuccessfully to learn the secret of Samson's strength. The Philistines instruct her to "entice" or "coax" (depending on what biblical translation you read) Samson, which seems to suggest something sexual, but the text reports only her persistent questioning and nagging. She makes no secret of her aim. By the fourth time, it is apparent that she will carry out whatever procedure Samson describes, but Samson tells her anyway, and she cuts his hair, allowing the Philistines to capture him.

Although the biblical text makes no more mention of Delilah after this deceit, many scholars suspect that she went to the Philistine temple of Dagon, where the captured Samson had been put on the display. Samson repents and asks God's forgiveness, with his last prayer begging for enough strength to punish the Philistines, even if it means his own death. As his hair begins to grow back, Samson furtively pushes on the pillars he is chained to, bringing down the ceiling on the gathered Philistines, killing himself and possibly Delilah in the process. ■



Today's readings

Dt 8:2-3,14-16
1 Cor 10:16-17
Jn 6:51-58

GOD'S WORD TODAY

In today's Gospel, Jesus reveals himself as the living bread that has come down from heaven, and says that anyone who eats this bread will live forever.

Jesus' statement that he is the bread of life is difficult for his hearers. They have no trouble with heavenly bread: their ancestors were sustained with manna, the bread from heaven, while they travelled through the wilderness for 40 years. Their difficulty comes when Jesus identifies the bread he gives with his own body and blood.

To eat the flesh and drink the blood of Jesus means to enter as fully as it is possible for human beings to do into the depths of the mystery of his self-giving love. And that is the gift that is laid out for us at every Mass.

This feast of the Body and Blood of Christ is an opportunity to think about the Eucharist and what it means, and for each of us to ask God for a deeper love for this great Sacrament of Love.

18 June 2017 – 6th Sunday of Easter **Year A**

Psalter Week 3

SoulSpace

SERIES: WOMEN FROM THE BIBLE

Season colour: WHITE

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



DELILAH OVERCOMING THE INVINCIBLE

Delilah, who lived in the thirteenth century BCE, is the only woman who is named in the biblical story of Samson. Her name is a wordplay on the Hebrew word for "night", for as the night overcomes the mighty sun (the name Samson is related to the word for "sun"), so Delilah overcomes the apparently invincible strong man Samson.



**THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
CORPUS CHRISTI 18th June 2017**



The Sacrifice of Christ reunited us with God, once for all. Every time we celebrate the Lord's Supper and receive his body and blood then through him our union with God is renewed.



"From this Feast of Corpus Christi have originated many practices of Eucharistic devotion that, under the inspiration of divine grace, have increased from day to day and that the Catholic Church uses eagerly to show ever greater homage to Christ, to thank Him for so great a gift and to implore His mercy." (Pope Paul VI)

**SLIGO PARISHES
CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION
THIS EVENING, 18th JUNE- 7.30 PM**

*Gather at: The Cathedral; St. Joseph's Church; St. Anne's Church
Route: Adelaide St, Wine St, Markievicz Rd, Connaughton Rd,
Lake Isle Rd, Bridge St, Thomas St, Abbey St
To: Sligo Abbey for Prayer & Benediction*

**LET US UNITE TOGETHER IN SHOWING OUR FAITH,
OUR REVERENCE AND OUR GRATITUDE.**

*All children who have recently made their First Holy Communion
are especially invited to come along
in their Communion outfits with their families.*

To facilitate the Corpus Christi Procession all evening Masses in the Town Parishes today, **Sunday 18th June** will be held at **6.30pm**, with the procession to follow immediately afterwards.

CORPUS CHRISTI AT THE HOLY WELL

For the polish community
Mass at 11am (on 18th June) followed by procession. All welcome.

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO Next week, Bishop Kevin will lead a youth group from the diocese walking a week of the Camino de Santiago. Please remember these young pilgrims in your prayers.

MONEY ADVICE AND BUDGETING SERVICE

Are you struggling to make ends meet? Are you worried about money you owe to money lenders, electric/telephone providers, credit cards, banks and/or mortgage lenders? We can help you.

For free and confidential advice, please contact Sligo MABS on 076 1072730 or email us at sligo@mabs.ie, or you can call to our office to make an appointment at Carbury House, Fish Quay, Sligo. MABS offer advice, support and information and can negotiate with creditors on your behalf.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY NEXT, 25th June, TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: 1st Reading: Jer. 20:10-13; 2nd Reading: Rom. 5:12-15; Gospel: Matt. 10:26-33.

BINGO - GILLOOLY HALL - TONIGHT, SUNDAY 18th June at 9.00 PM
TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €1,600.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES

SUNDAY, 11th June

PARISH ENV: €1,107 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,495

THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

✉ email us: info@sligocathedral.ie We welcome your comments.

FATHER'S DAY Today we remember all our Fathers, Grandfathers and Godfathers in a special way. We wish them all every grace and blessing on this special day. To mark this Father's Day our Cathedral Parish is giving the gift of a Special Father's Day Pen to mark this special day.

RELICS OF ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

The Order of the Knights of Columbus is organizing a visit of a relic of St. Teresa of Calcutta visiting a number of cathedrals throughout Ireland. The relic will visit the

**CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION on
TUESDAY 20th JUNE : 7.30pm Arrival, 8pm Mass & Veneration till 10pm**

WEDNESDAY 21st JUNE: 8am Mass & Veneration,
10.30 am Mass & Veneration till 12pm,
7pm Evening Mass & Veneration till 10pm

THURSDAY 22nd JUNE : 8.00am Mass & Veneration,
10.30am Mass & Veneration till 4pm.

WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY

"The family is the primary setting for socialization, since it is where we first learn to relate to others, to listen and share, to be patient and show respect, to help one another and live as one." Amoris Laetitia, Par 276

ELPHIN DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

The Annual Celebration of Marriage will take place on Sunday 2nd July at 3pm in St Patrick's Church, Castlereas, Co Roscommon celebrating 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th & 60th Anniversaries, followed by a reception at Cuisle, Donamon. For Details of registration please contact Parish Office Castlereas on 094 9621219 or Cuan Aire Family Life Centre on Mondays or Thursdays on 094 9620057 or cuanairfamilycentre@eircom.net

CONCERT A Mixed Choir from Norway, Dølakoret, conducted by Roar Brustad, will participate in the evening Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday, 24th June at 7.30pm.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Elphin Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 28th August - 2nd 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.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – YOUTH SECTION

Nominations are requested from youth of the parish, 17 years and over, to participate in the Lourdes Pilgrimage from 28th August, 2017 to 2nd 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.

DIOCEAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

Bishop Kevin will lead the annual Elphin Diocesan pilgrimage to Knock on Sunday, 20th August 2017.

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming EVENTS THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 21st June "Wednesday Tea" after 10.30am Mass.
Saturday 24th Confessions 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

RENUA IRELAND will be holding a meeting hosted by Mr Finbar Filan in the Glasshouse Hotel, on Thursday, 22nd June at 7.30pm titled "The Citizens Assembly - What Next".

ALL IRELAND RALLY FOR LIFE (SAVE THE 8th AMENDMENT) takes place on Saturday, 1st July at 2pm starting at Parnell Square, Dublin 1. More information on www.rallyforlife.net Please Stand up for Life by Joining the Rally. Bus Leaves Sligo Park Hotel at 9am on Saturday, 1st 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 17th – 21st July. Those interested in volunteering should visit www.michaelafoundation.com

YOUTH 2000 ANNUAL SUMMER FESTIVAL will take place from 17th to 20th 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

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDIGORJE 23rd 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

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 or acscltd@eircom.net

SERVISOURCE HEALTHCARE are recruiting qualified Experienced RGN's & RPN's & RIDN's for the Sligo area. For more info please contact Debbie O Flaherty on 091 762426 or email doflaherty@servisource.ie

RHS HOME CARE is a Non Commercial Home Care Provider bringing professional home care services to those who need assistance to remain living in their own homes. We are now recruiting new Healthcare Assistants in your area and would love to hear from you. Potential applicants must have the required Fetac/QQI level 5 (two modules completed care skills and care of the older person). Please email you CV to jobs@rshhomecare.ie or call Aoife on 090 6625988.

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

AREA MASS for The Park, Strandhill Rd. on Thursday, 22nd June at 7.30pm. If your area would like to host a Mass please contact your area priest or St. Mary's.

GLOBAL ROSARY RELAY FOR PRIESTS on Friday, 23rd June—Feast of the Sacred Heart. 65 countries partaking in this rosary relay in thanksgiving and for the sanctification of priests. In Ireland, pray the glorious mysteries at **2.30pm**, at Knock Shrine, in your local church or at home. Please see poster on noticeboard at back of Cathedral for more details.

CHAPEL OF ADORATION Please join us for rosary and evening prayer, Monday - Saturday at 5.15pm and Sunday at 5pm. When we pray we join the angels and saints in the corridors of heaven praising God.

Anniversary & remembrances

DAY	8.00 a.m.	10.30 a.m.
MON 19 th	JOHN VAHEY	---
TUES 20 th	ANN COSTELLO	BEATRICE FORDE-MONAGHAN
THURS 22 nd	—	JIM CARTY

Rest in Peace

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: JOHN REILLY, Pilkington Terrace; DENIS WILLIAMS, Old Quay Court and SEAMUS O'BOYLE, Lower Quay Street.

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