

SoulSpace

SERIES: WOMEN FROM THE BIBLE

Season colour: **RED**

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

OUR VIEW OF EVE

For many, Eve represents sin and seduction. Since such sides of her character are not actually part of the Hebrew narrative of Genesis but have become associated with her through Jewish and Christian interpretative traditions, a discussion of Eve means first pointing out that many of those views are not evident in the ancient Hebrew text.

Eve doesn't win the honour of the first person to sin. This dishonour is shared equally with her husband, Adam. The act of disobedience these two commit is often called the "sin of Adam and Eve" or what Christians call "original sin". Eve as tempted by the serpent to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge and then in turn, if you read the biblical text closely, she gives some fruit (not actually an apple if you read the text) to Adam, who takes it and eats it. Hardly the picture of the sultry temptress that we have become accustomed to. In fact the word "sin" does not appear in the text of the Book of Genesis until the story of Cain and Abel. Also, the story is often believed to involve God's cursing of Eve (as well as Adam), yet the text only speaks of cursing the serpent and the ground.

HER PLACE IN CREATION

One of the most difficult biblical verses for me and many of my students, and indeed anyone concerned with human equity, is Genesis 3:16 where it appears to give men the right to dominate women. There have been many readings of this text and one possibility is to recognise that the traditional

translations of the bible have distorted its original meaning and that reading the text against its agricultural background is a better alternative. Instead of the familiar "I will greatly increase your pangs in childbirth" (or sometimes childbearing), the verse is better translated as "I will greatly increase your work and your pregnancies". This gives us a directive for productive and reproductive roles for women; specifically what life would have meant for Israelite women.

Rather than concentrating on Eve's error, it is much more remarkable to examine her place in creation, not just chronologically, but indeed more importantly her spiritual position in salvation history. Eve was created (as Adam was) in the image and likeness of God. She possessed the same free will and intellect as her partner Adam and is united into one flesh before they break God's law. In fact, the Creation account in the Book of Genesis (2:18-24) where the creation of humans and their union is often the first reading at a wedding Mass. The reading normally ends however before verse 25 where we can read that they "were both naked, and were not ashamed"!

COVENANT

Her prominence in the human race is partly her sin, but also the good that she still possesses even after the Fall. Eve is a person who enters a covenant (or sacred oath) with Adam, and their covenant symbolises the covenant between God and all of humanity, a relationship and bond which we all strive for. ■



Today's readings

Ac 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

GOD'S WORD TODAY

Today's first reading describes how the apostles were gathered behind closed doors full of fear after the events of Holy Week. Then the Holy Spirit descended on them.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, they poured out of the room, no longer afraid, and began to preach the Good News of the Gospel to everyone.

Jerusalem was a cosmopolitan city, with people of many different nationalities speaking many different tongues, and yet when the apostles preached, everybody understood them. It was as if they spoke to each person in his or her own native language.

At Pentecost the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit, and with it, the gift of tongues. What was that gift? Was it that they suddenly become polyglots, able to speak everything from Swahili to Swedish? Or was it something different? What happened that first Pentecost was that they were given the ability to communicate in a new kind of language – the language of the Holy Spirit, the language of love. That language can transcend any barrier of race, or tongue, or nationality. It's a gift, a language, we have been given also, as members of the Church.



The character of Eve is unquestionably one of the most famous female characters in the Bible, if not in all of Western art, theology and literature. While she is often given a somewhat raw deal as the temptress to Adam, she is according to the biblical text, the first woman, the first wife and the first mother of the human race. Is there more to this woman than a run-in with a serpent and a piece of fruit?



PENTECOST SUNDAY

4th June 2017

The first coming of the Holy Spirit on the Church was wind and fire and the telling of God's wonderful deeds in many tongues. The Spirit also comes as many gifts for the common good, bringing peace along with God's forgiving power.

WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY

"When we have been offended or let down, forgiveness is possible and desirable, but no one can say that it is easy." *Amoris Laetitia*, Par 106

SECOND NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018

Thank you for your generous contribution to the second collection for the World Meeting of Families last weekend. The amount collected was €695. To keep up to date with news regarding the World Meeting or to register as a volunteer go to www.worldmeeting2018.ie

SACRAMENTS OF CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We congratulate all the pupils of the schools in our parish who received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the last few weeks. Thank you to their parents, their teachers and their schools for preparing them for these significant milestones in their ongoing faith journeys. We thank all our parishioners and Mass goers in the Cathedral for their prayers and support of these young people over the last year and thank them for their cooperation and understanding over the last few weeks when these celebrations were being held in our Cathedral.

May God bless all our wonderful young people with his love.

MISSIONARY SISTERS VISIT TO CATHEDRAL

The Missionary Sisters of St. Columban, founded for Mission in China in the early 1920s and now on Mission as well in other Asian countries and Latin America, will visit St. Mary's Cathedral parish, Sligo to do a Mission Appeal the weekend of 10th & 11th June. The Sisters' ministries are mainly educational, medical, social and pastoral. Please support.

IRISH HOST FAMILIES WANTED to host *Spanish Students* from 10th July - 31st July and 31st July - 21st August. 960euro per 6 weeks. Students will be in College 6 days a week, 8.30am-4.30pm. Please contact sligohostfamilies@fireland.com or 085 1592761 for further information.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK Lord, open my eyes to the revelation of salvation you have gained for us. Amen.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY NEXT, 11th June, THE MOST HOLY TRINITY 1st
Reading: Ex. 34:4-6. 8-9; 2nd Reading: 2 Cor. 13:11-13; Gospel: Jn. 3:16-18.

BINGO - GILLOOLY HALL - TONIGHT, SUNDAY 4th June at 9.00 PM
TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €1,500.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES

SUNDAY, 28th May

PARISH ENV: €2,207 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,291

THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

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

TODAY - PENTECOST OFFERING FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY

This collection is one of four each year to raise funds to pay the agreed salaries for the four priests of the parish. Thank you for your continued support.



BISHOP KEVIN sends his best wishes and assurance of his prayers to all Students preparing to sit state examinations in the coming weeks. Two short prayers that students might like to pray at time of study and before an exam are available on our diocesan website www.elphindiocese.ie

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

To facilitate the Corpus Christi Procession all evening Masses in the Town Parishes on the Feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday, 18th June will be held at 6.30 p.m. and the procession will follow immediately afterwards. This will be a chance for us to unite together in showing our faith, reverence and our gratitude.



ELPHIN DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

The Annual Celebration of Marriage will take place on Sunday 2nd July at 3pm in St Patrick's Church, Castlereah, 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 Castlereah on 094 9621219 or Cuan Aire Family Life Centre on Mondays or Thursdays on 094 9620057 or cuanairefamilycentre@eircom.net

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOUGH DERG

Elphin Diocesan 3 day-pilgrimage to Lough Derg, Friday, 16th June - Sunday, 18th June. For more details, including bus provision, see www.elphindiocese.ie/lough-derg or contact Justin Harkin at 087 6171526 or justin@elphindiocese.ie

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.

ALZHEIMER CAFÉ, the Glasshouse Hotel, Sligo on Friday, 9th June 2017 from 11.00a.m. – 1.00p.m. Dr McCarthy, Consultant Psychiatrist with the Psychiatry of Old Age Team, Liscarney House will give an information session on an overview of dementia at 12noon. The Alzheimer Café is a safe and relaxed place where people with dementia, their families and health care professionals can come together to talk, share and learn. For more info: Majella O'Donnell 086 7796390 or modonnell@alzheimer.ie

WEDDINGS Congratulations and best wishes to BLAINE GAFFNEY and DANIELLE KELLY who were recently married in our Cathedral.

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming **EVENTS** THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 7th June "Wednesday Tea" after 10.30am Mass.
Saturday 10th Confessions 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

FLEADH GIG RIG, STEPHEN ST CARPARK, Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th June, 4-10pm. Opening & dedication of new "Bridge of Light" Footbridge at Rockwood Parade. Fun and Fundraising for NW Hospice. All welcome with Free entertainment featuring a feast of Sligo and guest musicians each evening in conjunction with Fleadh Cheoil Shligigh.

To Mark the County Fleadh being held in Sligo Town Mass will be celebrated at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, 3rd June which is the evening Vigil for Pentecost.

HOLY HILL HERMITAGE will have a Visiting Sunday today, Sunday, 4th June. Everyone is welcome to Mass at noon and tea and tour afterward. The annual Family Day will take place on Sunday, 25th June instead of the first Sunday in July.

MASS FOR EXAM STUDENTS KNOCK An Exam Mass for all Junior & Leaving Cert students will be held on Monday, 5th June at 7.30pm in Knock Basilica. Students can also bring their pencil cases to have them blessed! For more information on this event, please contact Andrea Lynch at knockyouthministry@yahoo.ie

ANNUAL CLIMB OF KNOCKNAREA on Sunday, 11th June. Meet at car park Ballisodare side at 2.00pm. Family Day Out. Supporting Diabetes Ireland.

VISITING CHOIR IN THE CATHEDRAL for evening Mass at 7.00pm on Sunday, 11th June. Choir is from Tennessee, USA. All most welcome.

PHIL COULTER CONCERT AT LISSADELL CHURCH on Wednesday, 14th June 2017 at 8pm, for an evening of music and song in the atmospheric surroundings of Lissadell Church. Remaining tickets €35 are on sale at Drumcliffe Teahouse, Grange Pharmacy, Veritas, Sligo or by calling Heather on 087 1655880. All proceeds in aid of Lissadell Church.



STOP SUICIDE is hosting the *Lanterns of Hope festival* in Stephen Street Carpark Sligo at 6pm on Friday, 16th June. This is a free family event with eco-friendly lanterns being released at the end of the night. Music will be provided from 6pm with several local artists including Tabby O'Callaghan, This Side Up, Deja Groove and lots more. For more information on how to purchase a lantern check our Facebook page or www.stopsuicide.ie

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

anniversary & remembrances



DAY	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
MON 5 th	—	MARTIN SWEENEY (RIP 6 Months)
TUES 6 th	—	HUGH & ROSE SMITH & Deceased Family Members
WED 7 th	—	FR LOUIS GALLAGHER OCD Of the Derry Carmelite Friar Community
THURS 8 th	—	JOHN & KATHLEEN McTERNAN
FRI 9 th	—	1st Anniversary MAI MCGOWAN 
SAT 10 th	JAMES KELLY	Month's Mind TOMMIE REGAN 

Rest in Peace

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: TONA MORGAN, Rosehill; IRENE WATERS, Scarden and lately Mowlam Care Home and KATHLEEN HARRIGAN of Church Street.

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