

I Believe in The Communion of Saints.

‘The souls in heaven assist us with their prayers, while we assist the souls in purgatory by our good works, prayer and taking part in the Mass’.

Pope Francis.

St. Mary’s Parish Dungarvan

November 2023



November: Month of the Holy Souls

November 1st: Feast of All Saints.

Vigil Mass: 6:15 pm Mass (October 31) - The Friary.

No Vigil Mass—St. Mary’s.

November 1st: 11am & 7.30pm—St. Mary’s; 10am—The Friary.

Novena of Masses for the Holy Souls 2023

November 22—30, 2023. See separate sheet for details.

Wednesday, November 1st: Feast of All Saints

Matthew 5:1-12

The word “all” in the title of today’s feast is important. **Today we celebrate not just the canonised saints but all those who lived holy lives and are now with God in heaven, most of whom have not received any formal recognition from the Church.** This is what is referred to in today’s first reading as a “huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language” What distinguishes them is that they opened themselves fully to the Lord’s presence and allowed him to live in them. All of them, in different ways, reflected something of the portrait of the disciple that Jesus paints for us in the Beatitudes of today’s gospel reading.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus is giving us a portrait of the saint we are all called to become. The different beatitudes could be understood as the different pieces of coloured glass that make up a stained-glass window. **In one sense, Jesus is giving us a self-portrait. He is uniquely the person that is portrayed in those beatitudes. Yet he was the also showing us the kind of person that he calls us all to be, and can empower us to be through his Spirit.** Whereas the Beatitudes as a whole portray the disciple of Jesus, each individual beatitude is itself a way of following the Lord. Some ways of following the Lord will come more naturally to us than others. Saint Paul in his letters refers to all the baptised as saints. He addresses his letters to the saints of God in a particular city, all the members of the church. Paul is reminding us that we are already saints, in the sense that the Holy spirit has been poured into our lives from the moment of baptism.

Fr. Martin Hogan: Your Word is a Light on My Path, pp.276-278

The Home Above



We feel so sad when those we love

Are called to live in the home above.

But they have but gone to prepare the way

And we’ll meet them again some happy day.

For God has told us that nothing can ever sever

A life He created to live forever –

So let God’s promise soften our sorrow

And give new strength for a brighter tomorrow.

Prayer when Visiting a Cemetery

May God bless all the company of souls here,

May God and Mary bless you.

You spent awhile here, just as we are now

And we too will join you soon.

May we all be adorned in the beauty of the bright King of heaven.

Prayer during November

God of all who ever lived,

We bless you in the month of

November –it is time of all saints, the time of all souls, the time of remembering.

We place all who have died in your loving care.

May we share eternal life with all those we love.

(Bernadette Sweetman: Resources for *the Family Sunday Liturgy*).

Vigil Masses on Saturdays:

6pm: An Rinn

6:15pm: The Friary

7:30pm: St. Mary’s Parish Church

7.30pm: Colligan or Kilbrien on alternate Saturdays

Sunday Masses:

9am: The Friary

10am: St. Mary’s Parish Church

10:30am: Old Parish

11am: The Friary

11.30am: Kilgobinet

12 noon: St. Mary’s Parish Church

2nd November, Thursday: All Souls Day

Matthew 11:25-30

Today is the day when we give expression to what we refer to in the creed as “the communion of saints”. **We believe there is a deep spiritual communion between those of us who are still on our pilgrim way and those who have come to the end of their pilgrim journey.** As the funeral liturgy of the Church states, “all the ties of friendship and affection that knit us together in this life do not unravel with death”.

Saint Paul put it more simply in his First Letter to the Corinthians, “love never ends”. **One of the ways we expressed our communion with our loved ones before they died was by praying for them., If we are people of faith, we will always pray for those who are significant for us; we might light a candle for them. Just as our love for our loved ones does not cease when they die, neither does our praying for them cease, because it is one expression of our enduring love for them.**

Today is a special day of prayerful remembrance for our loved ones who have died. A traditional prayer we often pray for those who have died is “eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.”

We have the Lord’s assurance there in the gospel reading that if we come to him, if we turn to him, we will indeed experience a foretaste of that eternal rest or revival that awaits us beyond death.

Fr. Martin Hogan: *Your Word is a Light on My Path*, pp. 278-279

A Family’s Grief—How They Cope.

When asked where her inner strength comes from, the strength to overcome the shock and resulting pain of her young husband’s death. Olive has no doubt. It is her faith in God. She was reared in a typical Irish Catholic family in Co. Clare. Her farmer father and teacher mother instilled the children with traditional Christian values. Strangely she never really lost the faith—her old school pals still tease her that she was always up early for her morning prayers! But that was a young carefree adolescent’s faith, a faith in God who didn’t make life too difficult.

What sustains her now and indeed gives her energy for the future as she faces life after such a tragedy? She always felt very close to God and really felt God’s presence in her life as her friend. Now she feels that particular friendship, or indeed any friendship needs nourishment.

Contd Overleaf

She keeps that divine link alive in her life through praying the rosary, lighting a candle in Church, visiting her local grotto to the Blessed Virgin, having quiet time to meditate and of course, the Mass. That was central to Anthony’s funeral.

Her two sons picked up on the importance of the Mass by their unusual and uplifting suggestion on their father’s death. They asked that in their dad’s memory people might go to Mass and light a candle for eight Sundays after his death until Christmas. One hundred and sixty thousand people from 40 countries responded! Number 8 had been Anthony’s jersey number and a key position on a rugby team. Hence the significance of the number eight.

Olive feels that she is sharing in the resurrection. Her blood family, Anthony’s family, her rugby family, her village family, her church family, and her faith have made it alive for her. She can’t ignore or forget her seventeen years with Anthony, however she is now able to transform it into future family happiness. For the Foley’s life is changed, not ended. Her effervescent personality is testament to that.

Olive Foley, widow of Anthony (Axel) Foley (42), head coach of the Munster rugby team who died in Paris on October 16th, 2016.

In Conversation with The Editor of Africa Magazine, November 2023.

Belief in The Resurrection

“The key Christian reality has not been mentioned yet: obviously the Resurrection of Jesus becomes the hinge of history and the source of all our hope. When the Crucified Jesus showed himself to his friends, it was too much to take in. They were overcome with fear and joy together. The philosopher Wittgenstein put it well: ‘it is *love* that believes the Resurrection.’ And he underlined ‘love’. Belief in the Resurrection involves more than a unique physical event. It needs a wavelength of the heart, not just an objective inquiry of the data. We love best when we know ourselves loved. **And the Resurrection of Jesus is God’s love-pledge to us. It opens a totally different perspective on life and death. It is the ultimate sign that God is always a God of life and always an enemy of death. It offers an explosive new image of who we are and where we are going. We are not made for the finality of death but for the fullness of life, here and hereafter.**”

Michael Paul Gallagher SJ, *Into Extra Time* P.32