

# PARISH OF INISHMAGRATH

## 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

25th October 2020

Fr Tom McManus – 964 8025

Neighbouring Priests: Fr T Mannion 964 3014 - Fr P Casey 916 4143 -

Fr Loughlain Carolan 985 3012

### Masses

Mass intentions booked will be said in private as public Masses are not allowed at this present time.

Sat 31st Oct Patrick & Helen Leydon & Deceased family

Sun 1st Nov Mary Ellen & John Byrne & Deceased family

Mary & Jack McMahan

**Level 5:** We pray that we can all act responsibly and flatten the curve again. We will hopefully be on the lookout for those who need help over the next 6 weeks particularly. With faith in God "all manner of things will be well". Keep safe or in Irish "Slán libh".

During Level 5, public Masses are suspended. If you want to get a local Mass, tune in on [www.churchtv.ie](http://www.churchtv.ie) and follow the links to the church of your choice, e.g. Dromahaire.

**Winter Time Begins:** Clocks go back 1 hour for Sunday morning this weekend.

**November List of the Deceased:** In Masses during the month of November, the deceased of the Parish will be included. If you wish you can drop your envelope with your list through the letterbox at the Parochial House.

### Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there

And unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

**Notes on the Gospel:** Matthew 22:34-40 Don't be a stranger...

'Don't be a stranger' is a phrase we use to assure someone that they are welcome that they are now one of us and they are now outsiders. In the first reading today we read and hear how the stranger was to be treated. Welcoming, loving and showing hospitality to the stranger is what God asks. The length of time that some asylum seekers have to wait in Direct Provision Centres to have their status legally sorted is disquieting. We need a mind-set change from

hostility to hospitality; aversion to acceptance; rejection to respect; hatred to humanity; conflict to compassion.

As sharers in the Eucharist, we become involved in the mission and message of Jesus who bridges the gulf that leaves people estranged and alienated. A trap was set for Jesus in the Gospel today with the question, "which is the greatest commandment of the law?" He was asked this because He created fellowship with people wherever He met them. He showed an indiscriminate generosity and willingness to mix with all sorts of people who were judged to be undesirable, shadowy and unsuitable company. This is expressed in His answer: "You must love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself."

Celebrating the Eucharist not only reminds us that we are invited to be guests; it also reminds us that we are given the freedom to invite others to be guests as well. We should be always asking ourselves "who isn't at the table?" Their absence, for a myriad of reasons, diminishes our gathering around the altar. This is the sacred space of welcome. Inclusion, hospitality, forgiveness, sacrifice, sacrament, communion, celebration and where no-one should ever feel that they are a stranger.

Fr John Cullen

### The Deep End - LOVE:

The Pharisees continue their harassment of Jesus in today's Gospel by asking Him which commandment is the greatest. What follows is the most famous verses of the New Testament: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul... And ... You shall love your neighbour as yourself." We probably can't hear this enough. Love is the greatest commandment and this is a radical statement. Because this love is *agape* love, i.e. a love of those we don't even know or even like! It is a love that binds all of humanity.

We cannot separate love of God and neighbour; they are like the two sides of a coin; they only work together. If we do not treat others with compassion, then how can we say we love God? Jesus often spoke about approaching the altar whilst holding a grudge against someone (Mt 5:24) and continuously challenged those who were hypocrites. Those critical of social justice movements in the Church often say we should not be involved in doing 'social work'. But this is exactly what we must do because this is how we love God, by loving our neighbour who is suffering, who is oppressed, who is in pain. We can love God and love people, there does not have to be a dichotomy.

There is a beautiful practice in India of using the mystical phrase '*Namaste*' in greetings which means "the Divine in me greets the Divine in you". Usually this is accompanied by a deep bow towards the person. How wonderful it would be to really see God present in each other and, more importantly, in those that society would rather cast aside. In this way we are being true to the greatest commandment.

*"May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you."*

St Therese of Lisieux

Jane Mellett