

PARISH OF INISHMAGRATH

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

12th July 2020

Fr Tom McManus – 964 8025

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

Fr Loughlain Carolan 985 3012

Sunday Masses

St Brigid's Church, Creevelea

Sat 11th Jul 8.00pm

Sat 18th Jul 8.00pm

St. Patrick's Church, Tarmon

Sun 12th Jul 10.00am

Sun 19th Jul 10.00am Christopher Gilhooly (MM)

St Brigid's Church, Drumkeeran

Sun 12th Jul 11.15 am Margaret O'Rourke, Cloonmone

Sun 19th Jul 11.15 am Frank McPartland & Deceased Family,
Grouselodge
Mick & Kate Carty & Sons, Sean & Frank,
Lisacoghill

Masses During the Week

Mon 13th July	7.00 pm	Drumkeeran	Joseph Molloy, Sheena
Tues 14th July	10.00am	Drumkeeran	Special Intentions
Wed 15th July	10.00am	Creevelea	For All Parishioners
Thurs 16th July	10.00am	Drumkeeran	Special Intentions
Fri 17th July	7.00 pm	Tarmon	James & Brigid McKenna

Envelopes: Please bring in your envelopes for the various collections that would have occurred in the weeks we were on lockdown. If you want to pay by cheque;

1. The Offertory Collections can be paid to either; Drumkeeran Church Account, Creevelea Church Account or to Tarmon Church Account.
2. The Dues can be paid to Priests Revenue Account.
3. The Trócaire and other collections that support charities outside the Parish can also be left in now.

Thanks.

Welcome Back to Church:

Please be patient as we get to know how to do things safely and give people the confidence to gather together again to pray. People who are still anxious are asked to feel free to not attend Church yet. People who are ill are asked **not** to attend. There is no obligation to be present these weeks. If it suits, you can attend one or more of the weekday Masses where the numbers will be smaller.

Please follow the directions of the stewards and the signs on the seats and the floor. Please God we will soon be back to normal, but we have to be careful as the virus is still out there and we don't want a second wave or a second lockdown because the lockdown will be a local restriction in whatever area there is an outbreak of the virus.

Bereavement Counselling: Have you been impacted by a bereavement during COVID-19? Are you finding it more difficult to cope with a pre-Covid bereavement at this time? Would it help to talk to someone in confidence about your loss? The Irish Hospice Foundation Bereavement Support Line is a national Freephone service 1800 80 70 77 which is available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday. The line aims to provide comfort and emotional support.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People: ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

Gain a QQI Level 5 Administration and IT at Drumshanbo

Enterprise Centre: Would you like to become more confident working online and remotely? Become a qualified IT administrator after 9 months. Course will start in September 2020. The course content will include Microsoft Teams and Office 365 (the main applications used in industry and third level courses). In addition to face to face classes, course content will be available on Moodle which will allow for more flexible learning. Learners will also have an opportunity to learn Payroll and Computerised Accounts whilst on the course. Apply online through www.fetchcourses.ie (course code 282532), for more information email phyllisheduan@msletb.ie or telephone (071) 9641085.

Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

- ❖ Jesus uses parables to make people think about their own responses to His message. As you read this parable you may recognise that at different times you have been like each of the different types of soil. As you recall times when you presented fertile soil for the Word of God, what helped you create that receptive atmosphere? What lessons for life do you get from that?
- ❖ Parents with children, teachers with pupils, speakers with listeners, are all like sowers in a field where the preparation of the soil is up to another - the child, pupil or listener. They can sow the seed but cannot guarantee that it will bear fruit. At times there may be a temptation not to try any more. The challenge is to sow in hope. When have you been surprised by the harvest you have reaped?
- ❖ 'We are wasting our time here' may sometimes be the apparent wisdom in a group. Have there been times when you have gone against this apparent wisdom and seen your efforts bear fruit?

John Byrne OSA

Reflection 1:

We hear all sorts of reasons for unbelief, but every time I read the parable of the sower I'm struck by its reach. If there a reason advanced for unbelief that's not included in the parable?

Jesus compares people who hear the Word to seeds that fall on the edge of a path. The seed of the Word is sown in the heart but there is no understanding. Where there is no understanding, abandonment follows. The heart is simply not receptive, whereas receptivity is the precondition of understanding; the heart is simply not open, and entry through anything that's solidly closed is difficult. The Word simply bounces off non-receptive hard objects and falls away.

Next, Jesus compares people who hear His teaching to the seed that falls on patches of rock. It lacks both rich soil and deep roots. When confronted with human suffering - scorching sun - the faith of some people withers because it is not deeply rooted in the rich soil that is Jesus Christ. Scorching and withering - apt descriptions of human suffering.

That objections to God based on this very argument can attract millions of views on YouTube suggests that many have not taken Jesus and His teaching seriously. The God in whom many refuse to believe is not the God found in the teaching of Jesus Christ. They dismiss a God unrelated to Jesus Christ!

Next, Jesus compares people who hear the Word to seed falling in thorns. Falling in the midst of the worries of this world and the lure of riches, the seed is choked to death! A strong image, mind. Chokes, and common parlance often adds 'the living daylights out of!'

It's dramatic, but for most people the choking happens unconsciously. It's simply that other stuff - the cares of this world (interests that are good and wholesome

in themselves) and the pursuit of wealth - take our hearts. For many the interests become false gods.

Is there a source of unbelief that's not covered in this parable? It seems that many people attempt to believe without Jesus Christ and His teaching, which means they end up believing in nothing!

Fr Paddy Banville, St Senan's, Enniscorthy

The Deep End.

Today's Gospel is in three parts; the parable Jesus taught, an explanation on how to listen, and an explanation of the parable Jesus taught. The parable itself is well known and concerns seeds, where they land, and what happens to them. We might take note of the seeds as representing God's Word and the effect it has, or does not have, on us. What makes the difference in the parable is the type of soil the seed lands on and how suitable it is for growth to take place. Let us consider our own hearts as the soil; how open are we to receiving seeds that may be planted there? What condition is our 'soil' in?

Any decent gardener will know that good soil is the key in order to cultivate anything. Soil needs to be weathered, broken down; it can be too acidic, or it can be too alkaline. Good soil needs organic matter such as compost or manure. It needs lots of air and water; it needs to be tended and prepared.

We too are weathered down by various forces in our lives, and at times have manure thrown at us. This can either close us down and harden our hearts, or it can open us up, help us to grow, ready to receive the seeds that are scattered. Like the soil, we must take care of our bodies, hearts, and minds, adopt a holistic approach to our well-being.

The lesson on 'hearing' in the Gospel today is also important. How do we listen? Do we listen or read God's word while being distracted by many things, or are we fully attentive, even for a few minutes each day? How do we listen to one another? Fully attentive or with one eye on our phone? There is a great richness in the text today, spend time with it. Perhaps think about how you might prepare better the soil for planting.

"The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life." (Wendell Berry)

Jane Mellett