Sunday of the Word of God

In his Apostolic Letter of 30th September, 2019, *Aperuit illis* Pope Francis established that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be the Sunday of the Word of God. It is a day to be devoted to the celebration, study, and spreading of the Word of God. Pope Francis is clear from the very first paragraph of this letter that the relationship between the Risen Lord, a community of believers, and Sacred Scripture is essential to who we are as Christians.

The Sunday assembly gathering to celebrate the Eucharist is the unique moment in the week where a community gathers in a particular place and when their communal identity is nourished by Word and Sacrament. An important advance in 20th century theological reflection is that every sacramental celebration is founded and constructed upon the Word of God, and that every proclamation of the Word of God is sacramental.

While one might quibble with yet another Sunday being devoted to a particular theme that is superimposed on the liturgical celebration, this Sunday of the Word of God is certainly understood in a different way. It is not a new feast! After all, the Word of God is proclaimed at every Sunday Eucharist, and one of the great blessings of the liturgical reform and renewal flowing from the Second Vatican Council is a greater appreciation of the foundational role of the Word of God in every liturgical celebration. The reform of the lectionary has led to much more scripture being proclaimed during our liturgical gatherings and a greater awareness of the role of the Word of God in the life of faith.

This Sunday builds on the texts and prayers of the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time and is conscious that it comes just after the celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. While we are not yet united around the table of the Eucharist, we do share on many Sundays of the year the same scriptural readings in our different Christian assemblies. Pope Francis urges us to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to continue our prayer for Christian unity.

This Sunday is a time when the community is called to give greater attention not just to the Word of God. It is also urged to reflect on how we honour that Word in our celebrations, the books that we proclaim the Word from.
Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:

- Sat: 6.30pm: John Costin, Gallow’s Hill. MM
- Sun 26th January, 2020
- Sun 1st February; 5.30pm; St. Joseph’s Church should be booked through the Parish Office. All are welcome.

Hospital & Sick Calls

26th January, 2020
Priest on Duty: Fr Tom O’Gorman
Duty Phone: 065 6869098

Friary Notes

Hour of prayer for peace at Poor Clare Chapel on Sun 1st at 4.30pm.

1st Saturday devotions in honour of Our Lady of Fatima, in Cathedral next Sat. Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament with Confessions, Rosary and Benediction, after 10am Mass.

Newly Baptised

We welcome into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Bobby Gerard Ryan; Michael Patrick McGann; Charlie Mike Whelan; Jack Neil Whelan.

Ennis Parish Development Fund for Sunday 19th January, €7, 654.00

Feast of St. Brigid

Saturday next is St. Brigid’s Day. St. Brigid’s Crosses will be for sale after all masses in the parish this weekend and in the parish office during the week. Proceeds to the Cathedral Renovation Appeal.

Rest in Peace

Those we love don’t go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near; still loved, still missed and very dear.

Candlemas Day

Next Sunday 2nd February is Candlemas Day, the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus. Candles both for home and church use will be blessed at all Masses on Saturday Evening and on Sunday. We welcome candles for use in Church. They can be left in to the Parish office during the week.

Cloughleigh

Remembered in Masses this Week:

- Sun 11am: Elizabeth Hanrahan & Family Circular Rd
- Mon 9.30am: Johnny McCarthy.
- Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.
- Wed 9.30am: Donor’s Intentions.
- Thu 9.30am: Mairéad Connors, Station View MM.
- Fri 9.30am: Kathleen Reilly (nee Walsh), Corrovorrin Crescent.
- Sat 10.30am: Margaret Waters, Tullycryn.
- Sun 10am: Michael Hogan, Station Rd., Lahinch. MM.

Diocesan Needs Appeal

The second collection at all Masses this weekend is an annual appeal from Bishop Fintan to help support him financially in the running of the Diocese. Enabling the Diocese to support the work of safeguarding, catechesis, faith formation and faith formation of young people. Your generosity to this appeal is very much appreciated.

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- Thu 9.30am: Donor’s Intentions.
- Fri 9.30am: Donor’s Intentions.
- 7pm: Kathleen Hogan, Davitt Tce.
- Sun 2nd 11am: Kitty McDermott, Cloughleigh.
**Catholic Schools’ Week**

This coming week we celebrate all that is good in our Catholic Schools’. The theme for this year’s celebrations comes from Pope Francis’ call to care for the earth and live in harmony with God’s creation. We take this opportunity to thank all those who make our schools such places of welcome to our children, principals, teachers and school staff, those who give their time in a voluntary capacity to help with the governance of each school and above all the many parents who choose to send their children to Catholic Schools.

Pope Francis established this Sunday, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time as the Sunday of the Word of God. It is a day for the celebration, study, and spreading of the Word of God. Sunday Mass is the unique moment when we gather as a community to be nourished by Word and Sacrament.

**Appeal for Nurses:** This year’s Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from Friday 26th June to Wednesday 1st July. To care for sick and assisted pilgrims the Diocese is looking for 20 nurses who would like to volunteer to assist and care for these pilgrims. Nurses who would like to express interest and find out more details are asked to contact Michael Daly 086 3813677

**Safeguarding Training:** Parishioners and all involved in various Church ministries involving young people and vulnerable adults are required to be Garda vetted and have completed a one day safeguarding training every three years. The next safeguarding training day for this area will take place on Saturday 15th February; at Inn at Dromoland.

Realta Draiochta preschool at the Ennis National School enrolling for September 2020 and 2021. Contact Kathryn 0879232833 or Martina on 0867632686 for information.

Maidin na mBan: Women interested in speaking Irish are all invited to take part in Maidin na mBan an informal chat on Lá Fhéile Bríde, Friday 21st February 10am - 1pm. Information call 087 4174014.

Ennis Senior Citizens’ Club will resume its fortnightly meetings in Community Centre on Wednesday, January 29th; 8pm not 22nd as previously advertised. If you are over 65 and find the winter evenings long we invite you to join us for a cup of tea, chat, bingo, music, fun and friendship.

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**Sr. de Montfort Bray RIP**

Sr. de Montfort Bray slipped away gently in her sleep at Catherine McAuley Nursing Home, Limerick, on Thursday 9th January 2020. The eldest of four children, Mary Bridget was born to Patrick Bray and Mary Lyons on 2nd December 1936 at Boher, Ballina, Co. Tipperary. She was pre-deceased by her sister, Nora O’Connor, and is survived by her brother Michael and sister Bridget. Her education was in Boher NS, St. Mary’s, Nenagh, St. Anne’s, Killaloe, and Caryaft Teacher Training College, Dublin.

Mary joined the Sisters of Mercy in Ennis in October 1960, taking the name de Montfort and made profession of perpetual vows in July 1966. Apart from three years in the Convent Primary School, Tulla, all of her teaching life was devoted to Holy Family Schools, Ennis, serving a term as Principal in the Junior School. Retirement in 2002 opened up a rich variety of ministries for de Montfort; from management of staff at St. Xavier’s Convent, to school chaplaincy in Holy Family & in Bunscoil Mhichíl Chiosóg, to serving on Ennis Parish Council and visitation of families. She had a warm and kind personality and was recognised as a great listener, having a capacity to make and maintain friendships all her life. She was known and loved by generations of parents and students. In 2012, declining health forced her to retire fully and it was her own decision to move then to Limerick.

Sr. de Montfort’s family and community are very grateful to all those who attended her funeral, to Holy Family Schools, as well as to Scoll Mhichíl Chiosóg, for augmenting the music and singing so beautifully at her Requiem Mass.

**Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam diùs.**

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**Pilgrimages to Medjugorje:** Two seven day pilgrimages are leaving Shannon Airport on Sept. 9th & 16th. Arrive Mostar airport (40 minutes to shrine) and depart Split airport. Pay deposit of €50 before Jan. 31st price €695 after Feb. 1st €745. Contact Jimmy 065 9059328; 085 7385385

Clare Branch of Parkinson’s Association Meeting; Camogoran Health and Wellness Centre Newmarket-on-Fergus; Friday 31st January from 10am - 1pm. Information call 087 4174014. **Sr. Eileen’s Clínne**

Seachtain na Scolanna Caitliceachá

Cuirtear tú is Seachtain na Scolanna Caitliceachá 2020 ar an Domhnach, 26 Eanáir, an Tríú Domhnach Saor. Is é an téama do 2020 ná: ‘Maireachtáil go silteach le gach ar chruthaigh Dia’. Is é seo an dara bhliain déag de Sheachtain na Scolanna Caitliceachá. Cé go mbíonn obair na scoile á chéileárdadh gach lá, is tréid leis an bhfoireann a bhí ann ‘gach ar chruthaigh Dia’ a chréideadh, agus ar na beálai inar féidir linn a bheith pártaiseach sa ghluaiseacht leis an domhan, a bhí an chumadh coróin a fheabhsú, agus obairDé á dheidhnnamh agus a bhí in éisc.

Tugtar cuireadh do scoileanna machnann a chéileárdadh ar an gcuid deis atá idir an bhaile, an scoil agus an paróiste. Is páidídí é seo féidir liom dalaí scoile a rá i rith na seachtaine: A Tháirianna, bhagainné oideachas leis an bhfoirneachtaí Chaitliceach a bhíonn ar a gcónaí ina dhánaí ar a gcóir. Bháithníonn linn a thabhairt don timpeallacht agus a fhréagra cuí a thabhairt do chluicheamh, a chéadú an domhan. *Aiméan.*

**Catholic Schools’ Week** begins on Sunday 26 January, the third Sunday in Ordinary Time. The theme for this year is “Living in Harmony with God’s Creation”. This is the twelfth year of Catholic Schools’ Week. Although the work of the school is celebrated each day, this is a opportune time to acclaim all of God’s creation and the ways we can participate in a movement to improve the world in doing God’s work.

Schools are invited to reflect on the relationship between home, school and parish. Students may recite this prayer during the week:

**Lord Jesus, we thank you for our Catholic schooling day after day. Help us to care for God’s creation and respond appropriately to the faith given to us, so that we will be known as your disciples. Amen.**

**Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage 20-27 July €675 if booked before Feb 1st; Shannon direct to Mostar; 7 nights air conditioned accommodation near to St. James Church. More information Kathleen Lee: 086 1031508.**

**Ennis Tidy Towns’ Biodiversity Lectures** — Come along to one, more or all of our Biodiversity talks. A series of 5 talks with a different guest speaker on each Monday evening at 7pm in Waterpark House. Dates: Feb 3rd, 9th and 17th. Mar 2nd and 9th. Guest Speakers: Kate Lavender (Burrenbeo), Tom Maher (Banner Beekeepers), Tom Lynch (Birdwatch Ireland), Oonagh O’Dwyer (Wild Kitchen) and Bev Truss (The Hogsprickle) respectively. All are welcome. Admission is free. We care for our environment.

**Rambler’s Guided Walk with Clare Walks Ltd;**

Thursday 30th January; 11am—12:30pm; Kilkishen Cultural Centre, just outside the village of Kilkishen. This walk is approx. 5km and follows quiet roads and footpath and is mostly flat. We will finish at Kilkishen Cultural Centre for the customary tea and scones. These walks are primarily for over 50’s but all are welcome. Information: 065 6835912 or email info@clarewalks.ie

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**‘Do This in Memory’ - First Communion Programme**

The Gospel: After the second reading, the Minister of the Word will invite us to stand and greet or give the Gospel. Before the Gospel is read we sing or say the Gospel Acclamation. For most of the Church year we greet the Gospel with the word ‘Alleluia’, a joyful song of praise. The Alleluia is followed by a verse of scripture from the Bible.

This verse reminds us of the theme of the Mass and readings. During the season of Lent we do not use the word ‘Alleluia’. The Gospel stories tell us about Jesus and we hear what he said to his friends and those who come to listen to him. So the reading of the Gospel is different to the other readings. It is the most important part of the Liturgy of the Word.

Excerpt from ‘Learning About the Mass with Kath and Quemen’
**Entrance Antiphon**

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence our majesty and splendor, strength and honour in his holy place.

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

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<th>P.</th>
<th>Have mercy on us, O Lord</th>
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<td>C.</td>
<td>For we have sinned against you.</td>
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<td>P.</td>
<td>Show us, O Lord, your mercy.</td>
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<td>C.</td>
<td>And grant us your salvation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.</td>
<td>May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.</td>
<td>Amen.</td>
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**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, God, almighty Father.

For you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah.**

Is 8:23 - 9:3

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who lived in the land of the living.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

**A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.** 1 Cor 1:10-13.17

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice.

From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean, are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcellled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

**The word of the Lord**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom, and cured all kinds of sickness among the people. Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.** Mt 4:12-23

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light;

on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father, through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Communion Antiphon**

Look towards the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.