



Kevin was a first-class pupil at school. His teacher asked the class, "What is the colour of apples?" Most of the children answered "red". A few said "green". Kevin raised his hand and said "white". The teacher tried to explain that apples could be red, green, or sometimes golden but never white. Kevin was quite insistent and finally said, "**look inside**".

So often we look only at externals. We judge people by looks, by the clothes they wear, by the colour of their skin, by their accent, by the house they live in and so on. Often, we fail to look within and see the beauty and potential of each person. God always looks beyond the externals and sees the beauty, uniqueness, and great potential of each person. We may not be as generous in how we judge people but to look within is always the best way to go.

ASH WEDNESDAY—22nd February

As usual we invite members to bring withered palm branches to the church for burning to form the ashes for the community on Ash Wednesday.



What we gather will be combined with the ash collected from the burnt palm crosses we used to remember our dead during the month of November.

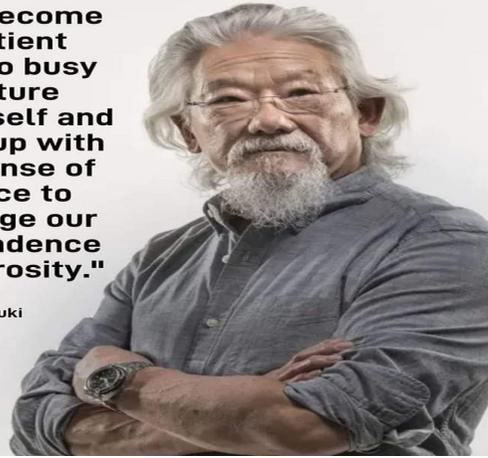
When coming to church please collect a copy of the bulletin and use it to join in the prayers and the readings of the Mass. When leaving we urge you to take the bulletin home with you. You never know, maybe a member of your family or a visitor to your house might take an interest in the content.

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A Penitential Service will take place on Saturday 11th February at the beginning of the 10 am Mass. All very welcome.

"We have become the impatient species, too busy to let nature replenish itself and too puffed up with our own sense of importance to acknowledge our utter dependence on its generosity."

- David Suzuki



Parish Monthly Charity.

The parish is supporting **EDEL HOUSE** as our monthly charity. The parish has a tradition of being generous in its support of this deserving charity. Contributions in support of Edel House can be deposited in the wall boxes at the front of the church. To date we have collected €1,527.

Donations in support of the people of Ukraine can still be deposited in the box in the wall marked at the back of the church. It's hoped that the Polish SMA Superior will visit the parish on the 12th Feb. We are close to being able to give him another donation of €1,000 to assist in supporting Ukrainian refugees in their house in Poland.

Donations in support of the people of Ukraine can still be deposited in the box in the wall marked at the back of the church.

World Youth Day 2023

The Diocese of Cork and Ross is delighted to announce that Bishop Fintan will travel with 20 young people (18 - 30 years) from around the Diocese to World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon (July 31st to August 7th). Two to four million young people from around the world are expected to attend and to pray with Pope Francis. It will be an experience of faith, fun and friendship.

A special Information Evening will take place on Monday February 13th at 8pm in Mardyke House Cork City (T12 W8RP). The cost is €500 per person including flights, accommodation, food vouchers, tickets for transport within Lisbon, travel insurance, and bag allowance. Places are limited so if you are interested, please come along on February 13th to register your interest.

Ballineaspig Parish Lenten Talks 2023

Tuesday 28th February at 7.30pm - Mary Crilly will talk about the work of the Sexual Violence Centre in Cork and the campaigns, including Cork Against Human Trafficking

Tuesday 14th March at 7.30pm - Sr. Sheila Curran: "Reclaiming Women's Voices for Justice: Critical insights from the Book of Lamentations"

Tuesday 21st March at 7.30pm - Fr. Peter McVerry "Jesus - a social revolutionary?"

Tuesday 28th March at 7.30pm

A showing of The Letter, with discussion afterwards facilitated by Sally Simpson

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

THE 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,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us; you take away the sins of
the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

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



OPENING PRAYER

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ,

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The gospel of Christ will often force difficult decisions in our lives. The gospel offers a fullness of life which in turn offers us joy and a meaning of life which promises a hope and love that is eternal. 12th February 2023



eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 118:1-2.4-5.17-18.33-34

R. They are happy who follow God's law!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. (R)

2. You have laid down your precepts to be
obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. (R)

3. Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. (R)

4. Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. (R)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2: 6 - 10

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of

eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 5: 17 - 37 (or *5:20-22.27-28.33-34.37) (Shorter form in italics)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

**For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.*

**You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;* if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.*

**You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.* If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.*

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

**Again, you have learnt how it was said to our*

ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. *All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.*'*

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God,
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic
Church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

✠ LITURGY OF EUCHARIST ✠

Pray brothers and sisters,

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for that food by which we truly live. Through Christ our Lord.