



# WHAT FILLS YOUR HEART?

(LUKE 6:39-45)

**A person's character is revealed in the way they live and treat other people.**

We may detect in Jesus' remarks a rebuke to the Pharisee teachers and leaders of his day, but they are also a warning to the Christian community for whom Luke is writing, and therefore to ourselves. We have seen how disciples of Jesus are called to be "children of the Most High" and to treat others as God would. The more aware a disciple is of their own faults and shortcomings, the less likely they should be to judge other people.

The comparison with a tree and its fruit is particularly telling. The fruit is evidence of the state of health of the plant which bears it. So it is with the disciple: how they behave shows the kind of person they really are. ■

## REFLECT

It is easy and tempting sometimes to reduce being a believer, a disciple of Jesus, to doing things, to the way we live on the outside. Jesus is telling us today that how we are outwardly is an indication of what we are truly like inwardly. Our fruit should be the result of our relationship with God, not something we put on for show because we think that this is how we should be or act. The term 'hypocrite' comes from the Greek theatre and has the sense of an actor, one who is playing a part, wearing a mask and reciting lines they have already learned beforehand. Jesus is encouraging his audience to be true to their authentic selves and not to claim other levels of knowledge or wisdom. Not the easiest of challenges, by any means.

Perhaps we might remember that at the root of our Christian faith is the idea of Covenant. This is the relationship into which God entered freely with human beings, first with all people through Noah, then in a particular way with one individual and his descendants, Abraham. This relationship was established in a new way in the person and the self-giving of Jesus, which we renew each time we celebrate the Eucharist together. Thus, our Christian life is not primarily a matter of *doing* certain things or living in a certain way. It is more about the person who we are, and this manifests itself in our outward life and behaviour.

The Gospel reading echoes the warning from Ecclesiasticus about what a person says reflecting what is actually in their heart. Nowadays, we appreciate better the meaning of Freudian slips of the tongue and what our sense of humour tells us about ourselves. However, it is only by admitting our faults and prejudices that we can do something about them. So when we say to ourselves, "I shouldn't be thinking like that," we are better to ask where that thought came from in the first place. It is only by bringing them out into the open that we can get rid of things which we have kept hidden and we will be much the better for it. ■

## LEARN

The word 'hypocrite' comes from the Greek verb 'to answer':

It is used in connection with the theatre, to describe an actor;

Greek actors wore masks during the performance, hence the English meaning of a hypocrite being someone playing a part, rather than being themselves.

## DO

Look at plants growing as you walk along. Ask yourself what kind of fruit you are bearing: thank the Lord if it is good and ask the Lord's help if it needs improving.



## SAY

**Open our hearts, Lord, to accept the words of your Son.**

(cf Acts 16:14)



# NEWSLETTER

27<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2022

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

Fr. Stan Deegan Tel: 044-9374127 0872673655.

Email: [parishofkillucan@gmail.com](mailto:parishofkillucan@gmail.com)

[www.parishofkillucan.ie](http://www.parishofkillucan.ie) Facebook: Killucan Parish

The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

## ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am. Jim Gorman. Brigid & John Carley.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>, 6pm. Richard & Niall O'Keefe.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am. Oliver Lynam MM. Paddy & Thomas Beatty. William, Peter, Richard & Margaret Pakenham.

## ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>, 10am. Paddy Mulvaney.

## Weekday Masses; Tues, & Thursday Raharney. Fri Rathwire.

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €670  
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €562

Sheila Garde nee Shaw, Lucan. Late of  
Raharney.

**Ash Wednesday:** Mass and blessing of ashes 9am in Rathwire & 7.30pm in Raharney.

**First Friday:** Communion calls attended on Friday.

Killucan Raharney Golden Years Club resumes on Wednesday 2nd March at 1pm to 3.30pm. Light lunch raffle and entertainment provided. We are all looking forward to seeing everyone again. Further information call Anne 044 93 76983.

**Streaming Service:** Masses from Raharney may now be viewed on <https://www.churchservices.tv/raharney>

## What is a Synod?

The word "synod" evokes the image of "walking together on the way". For the Church it is a time-honoured way of working out together the "navigation map" for the Church at particular times. Synodality is about the whole People of God helping each other listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. Pope Francis emphasises that this is not simply a matter of discussion as in a parliamentary debate. Rather it is primarily a prayerful spiritual time of communitarian discernment. It is about finding the best ways for every baptized person to fulfil the Church's mission of proclaiming to the world, God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis has emphasised that "it is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium". Synodality is at the heart of the pastoral conversion that Pope Francis emphasises in the Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium).

For information online see; [www.synod.ie](http://www.synod.ie) and [www.dioceseofmeath.ie](http://www.dioceseofmeath.ie)

On four evenings in March, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, & 29<sup>th</sup>, we will have gatherings to bring together people from all parishes in the diocese. These meeting will take place in each denery (8 parishes in the Mullingar Denery) and will begin the Synodal process. Each and everyone in invited to attend one of the gatherings and offer your thoughts and ideas. The meetings will be held St. Etchen's NS Kinnegad.

Adoration  
of the  
Blessed Sacrament



In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.  
& St. Brigid's Wed. 6pm-10pm:  
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer  
for vocations and the family.*  
**Take one Hour with the Lord**