



## JESUS AMONG US

(LUKE 9:11-17)

The miracle of Jesus feeding the multitude with loaves of bread and fish: scene from the Cathedral of St Rumbold in Mechelen, Belgium

Jesus' initial reaction to the arrival of the crowds is to welcome them, teach them and cure those in need of healing.

There is no suggestion that the people concerned are actually hungry and the episode can be read, as all the 'miracle' stories can be understood, as symbolic, that is, that there is a deeper meaning to these actions of Jesus. The mention of twelve baskets reinforces this idea.

The way in which we refer to this incident is important: it is better to describe it as 'the feeding of the crowds' rather than 'the multiplication of the loaves'. The latter phrase concentrates on the 'miraculous' aspect of the event, but the New Testament uses the expression 'works of power', emphasising that this is the power, the kingdom of God breaking into the lives of people in need. The scriptural background to this story is God's providing food for the people of Israel during their journey through the wilderness from Egypt to the Promised Land: there is a hint about this in the disciples' remark to Jesus that "we are in a desert place here", rather than "a lonely place" as our text renders it. Jesus is thus echoing God's concern by providing food for the people, and the disciples share in his ministry by distributing the bread to those present, who number five thousand men: interestingly, in his account of the same incident, Matthew adds "to say nothing of women and children".

We might note how Luke describes Jesus' actions: he *takes* the bread, *says the blessing*, *breaks* it and *gives* it: this is the language we find used at the Last Supper in connection with the institution of the Eucharist. The feeding of the crowds foreshadows the institution of the Eucharist, which, in its turn, anticipates the banquet in the final Messianic Kingdom. ■

## LEARN

The feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle story recorded in all four gospels.

It is Jesus who provides bread for the people in the desert (lonely) place, just as God did for Israel in their journey through the wilderness.

The feast of Corpus Christi was one of the most popular celebrations with processions of the Blessed Sacrament.

This feast was the lay version of Holy Thursday, which also celebrated the institution of the priesthood.

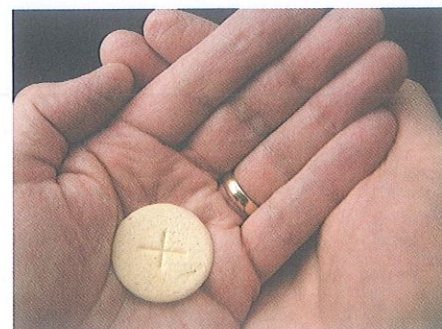
## SAY

How can He deny me heaven,  
who here on earth Himself  
has given?

(St Alphonsus Liguori)

## DO

As you receive holy communion, renew your belief that you are actually welcoming Jesus into your very self.



## REFLECT

It is easy to become preoccupied with how this event took place: there are some plausible rationalisations which explain away the 'miraculous' element and reduce it to an act of sharing on the part of the people present: some might suggest that that would be an even greater miracle. But we have to ask ourselves: 'What does the account mean?' rather than 'Did it actually happen?' or 'How did it happen?'

Perhaps we might concentrate on the idea of Jesus nourishing the people who have come to him. It is important to keep in mind that none of the four gospel accounts of this incident state that those present were actually hungry. In our celebration of the Eucharist, we see connections with the feeding in the two parts, word and sacrament. Jesus nourishes our mind, our faith and understanding of what it means for our

everyday lives in the light of the Word of God: hence preaching is a grave responsibility for those concerned. We are further sustained by receiving Jesus into ourselves in the form of bread and wine. This presence of Jesus in the consecrated bread and wine is the focus of today's feast. ■



# NEWSLETTER

19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 3pm. Doreen Smyth & Jenna Smyth.


## ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>, 6pm. Maureen & Sean Coyne. Jenna Eve Smyth

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>, 6pm. Ellen Dowdall MM.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>, 10am. Paddy Nolan.

## Weekday Masses; Tues & Thurs Raharney. Wed & Fri Rathwire.

<p>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</p> 	<p><b>In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm. &amp; St. Brigid's Wed. 6pm-10pm:</b> <i>Special Diocesan intention of prayer for vocations and the family.</i> <b>Take one Hour with the Lord</b></p>
--	---

<p><b>MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €541</b> <b>PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €569</b></p>	
---	--

**Cemetery Sunday:** in Rathwire cemetery on Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. There will be no 11.30am Mass in Rathwire on that day. As preparations are underway for the celebration perhaps it would help in the traffic management to have all cars approach from the church direction to avoid congestion. Perhaps as you tidy and prepare your family plot there may be one nearby that no family members tend to and you might be able to tend to that also. Our collection on the day helps to provide the service of the skip for all rubbish and debris. Thank you.

**3 Day Pilgrimage:** to Lough Derg 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June. Contact 9374818 for details.

**Charity shop:** at Rathwire church opens Tues, Thurs & Fri 11am – 1pm.

**Vincent de Paul:** invite new members in the area with the work. For info call 086 0706571

### A Hard Question

When the disciples came to Jesus with the request to dismiss the people to go find food, Jesus challenged them with the question: “Why do you not give them something to eat yourselves?” That question should haunt us today.

More than enough food is grown to feed everyone on this planet. “Why do you not give them something to eat yourselves?”

More than 60,000 people will die of hunger on this feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Two-thirds of them will be children. “Why do you not give them something to eat yourselves?”

Nearly one in five people worldwide is chronically malnourished—too hungry to lead a productive, active life. “Why do you not give them something to eat yourselves?”

One-third of the world's children are significantly underweight for their age. “Why do you not give them something to eat yourselves?”

The amount of money the world spends on weapons in one minute could feed 2,000 malnourished children for a year. “Why do you not give them something to eat yourselves?”

Jesus is our living bread. It is his obvious intention that we be well fed. The Eucharist, a great gift from the same God that sent the manna in the desert, should strengthen the determination of both the hungry and the satisfied to do what it takes to eliminate hunger.

If a person is in extreme necessity, he has the right to take from the riches of others what he himself needs. Vatican II, Constitution on the Church