

28 AUGUST 2022

Sunday Message

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



The community to which Luke belonged apparently had a sizable proportion of non-Jewish members: hence, elements of Gentile or Greek culture would be understandable to the readers of his Gospel account.

Thus, the setting of a banquet meal would be quite in line with discussing matters of a serious nature about human life and religious belief. This occurs several times in the Third Gospel and finds its highest expression in Jesus' teaching at the Last Supper.

We might note a couple of interesting details from the first line of our gospel reading today: Jesus has obviously been invited to a meal with a prominent member of the Pharisee party. To accept such an offer to share table fellowship suggests that Jesus had no fundamental issue with his host, otherwise he could not have gone to his house. But there are a couple of warning bells ringing for the reader: first, this occurs "on a sabbath day", usually heralding a controversy of some sort; secondly, the unspecified others "watched him closely" in a hostile manner, waiting to catch him out.

Jesus' remarks to the other guests about not pushing themselves forward at social occasions is not just a matter of good manners or etiquette: there is, as in all parables, something deeper at work. Jesus illustrates his teaching about God reversing human order with the parable about the guest who is embarrassed by having to give up the place at table, to which they had assumed they were entitled, to someone more important. He also warns them against being apparently generous but expecting to be rewarded, or compensated, in return. ■

REFLECT

Hospitality towards the stranger was a sacred duty in the culture of Jesus' time. Jesus' host and table companions are not sincere in their sharing a meal with him, as their intention is to discover something that they can use against him.

The standard we should try to emulate is that of the Kingdom of God. Luke has stressed that the Gospel is to be announced to those on the margins of society, people who are usually neglected or pushed aside. This will bring reward, not from other people, but from God: it is God who humbles and exalts.

Opening one's house to a stranger can be a risky matter in the present day: we cannot presume that someone we do not know will not abuse their host's welcome. We can think of incidents in history where people have given shelter to others and dreadful crimes have been committed against them. But, as communities, we can collectively offer food and shelter to those in need. We should interpret Jesus' teaching in the light of our own time and culture and act together where we can, even if it simply means supporting the work of parish or local charities or helping efforts to alleviate the suffering of less fortunate and lonely members of society. We will not receive any material reward for doing this, but something more important. ■

LEARN

One element to our celebration of the Eucharist is that of sharing a meal together.

In the mind of Jesus, given his cultural background, this involves mutual respect and acceptance:

Hence, the sign of peace which we offer to each other before receiving Holy Communion is deeply symbolic;

It is saying that we are at peace with those with whom we are celebrating. If we cannot offer someone such a sign or gesture, then we ought to sort out the situation.

SAY

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you.

(Marty Haugen)

DO

Find some way of contributing to people in need in your parish or local community.





NEWSLETTER

27TH AUG 2022

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

Fr. Stan Deegan Tel: 044-9374127 0872673655.

Email: parishofkillucan@gmail.com

www.parishofkillucan.ie Facebook: Killucan Parish

The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 21st, 11.30am. Patrick PJ Loran.

Sunday 4th, 11.30am. Pat & Elsie Lynam. William & Christina Dunne & family Riverbank.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Saturday 27th, 6pm. Lena & James Holdwright & members of the Farrell Family. Michael Dowdall.

Weekday Masses; Tues & Thurs Raharney 9am. Wed & Fri Rathwire 9am.

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

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €427
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €538

RIP: Noel, Kellaghan, Rathwire

First Friday: Communion calls attended this week as usual.

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

Alpha Course: takes place in the Greville Arms hotel for 11 weeks. Sessions each week begin on Sept 8th from 7.30pm – 9pm. In the course there is a different theme each week to learn more about Jesus, the Scripture and Prayer. The evening consists of an Alpha film series shown for about 20 minutes, followed by small group discussion and light refreshments. All are welcome to come and develop faith together.

Bongo: returning to Rathwire on Tuesday evenings at 8.30pm from **Tues 20th Sept.**

Resembling God

The God we worship is “the father of orphans and the defender of widows who gives a home to the forsaken and leads forth prisoners to prosperity and has made a home for the poor.” The God we worship tells us: “when you have a reception, invite beggars and the crippled, the lame and the blind.”

Does our ministry bear any resemblance to the God we worship? Do we provide shelter to homeless children? Do we stand up for the lonely elderly? Do we lead prisoners to prosperity? Do we make our church a home for the poor? Do we invite the helpless to our party?

Today's liturgy challenges us to a different lifestyle, one based on forgiveness, love and faith, humble living, the following of Jesus, who is *gentle and lowly of heart*, peacemaking and suffering persecution, and service of others.

We know that we have responded to this challenge when we begin to resemble the God we worship, the “God who has made a home for the poor.”

It is not merely a matter of ‘giving from one's surplus,’ but of helping entire peoples which are presently excluded or marginalized to enter into the sphere of economic and human development.

It is not enough to draw on the surplus goods which in fact our world abundantly produces; it requires above all a change of lifestyles, of models of production and consumption, and of the established structures of power which today govern societies

Pope John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*,