



NEWSLETTER

19TH FEB, 7TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 26th, 11.30am. Margaret & Patrick Hill & Imelda. Brigid & John Carley and family.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Sunday 19th, 10am. Joe Reid MM. Sheila Garde. Andrew & Ellen Doyle. Una Gilsean.

Weekday Masses; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in Raharney 9am.

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €620
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €549

RIP: Peter Reilly, Rathwire. Funeral in St. Camillus church this Monday at 1pm.

Cora McGovern, nee Gorman, Boston and late of Corbetstown.

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.
& St. Brigid's Wed. 5pm-10pm:
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer
for vocations and the family.*
Take one Hour with the Lord

Lent: begins this Wednesday. Masses on Ash Wed at 9am and 7pm in Raharney.

Stations of the Cross: prayer at the stations on each Thursdsay of Lent in Raharney at 7pm.

Cemetery Sunday: takes place on June 18th.

Temperance Sunday: Prayers offered for all who suffer from addiction.

The welcome group and the Assoc of Ukrainians in Ireland are presenting an evening of free entertainment in The Church of the Assumption to mark day 365 of the war and to honour those who are affected by the war in Ukraine. The event takes place for 7 – 9pm on Feb 26th. All welcome.

In the [Gospel](#) Reading, Christ commands us to turn the other cheek. How are we to make sense of this command? If a schoolyard bully beats up your child, are you supposed to instruct her to turn the other cheek to let him do it again? Or should you alert the principal of the school and get him stopped? Christ's command to turn the other cheek seems to insist on that first alternative. **If we love our enemies in this way, we will want to help them be what we ourselves want to be.** And so it looks as if Christ is commanding us to help people do bad things with impunity. But to think this is to be focused only on yourself and what you take to be your virtue. It is to forget entirely *the wellbeing of the person engaged in evil*. In the Gospel Reading for last Sunday, Christ says that anyone who hates his brother is shut out of heaven. If mere hatred is enough to get a person excluded from heaven, how about hatred in action, like physical attack? If you enable a person to keep doing bad things, you are helping him to hell. But Christ is asking us to *love* those who hurt us. So in the [Gospel](#) Reading Christ is not commanding you to be an enabler of people doing bad things. He is exhorting you to love even your enemy *as yourself*. If you love your enemy in this way, you will want to help your enemy be what you yourself want to be: someone trying to love and obey Christ. Think this way of Christ's command to turn the other cheek, then.

Sunday Message

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 19 February 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3

THE EXTRA MILE

(MT 5:38-48)

Today's Gospel offers the last two instances from the Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus puts a new interpretation on the law of Israel. Jesus takes the old Jewish law a big step forward. We are to go the extra mile.

Jewish law was big into external observance. Keep the law, and you were all right. It didn't matter what kind of person you were on the inside – in the heart – so long as you followed the law line by line.

Jesus' law is very different. It's not just about sticking to the letter of the law. It's about the kind of person you are, your whole way of living and relating to others – a move from keeping rules to showing love and mercy.

We see that contrast played out in today's Gospel. Jesus says: "You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked person no resistance..."

"You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemy..."

You see the pattern: "You have learnt... But I say this to you..." The contrast is stark. The old way of living is no longer enough. We must now live according to the far more challenging new law of Jesus. It is a call to go the extra mile.

This new law of Jesus has vast implications for how we see and treat each other. Think of the terrible war in Ukraine. Think of the social divisions that exist in our country. Think of the divisions in our church.

Now listen to the new law of Jesus again: love your enemies; extend the hand of friendship; be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. We must always go the extra mile. ■

LEARN

The Christian loves everybody without distinction.

The command to love our neighbour is central to our faith.

The Christian keeps the spirit and not just the letter of the law.

PRAY

There is so much hatred in our world today, so much division, suspicion, racism. Pray for a world that lives by the values of the Sermon on the Mount.

SAY

Lord, help me always to be a channel of your love and peace.

DO

Reach out to somebody you have stopped talking to or who has stopped talking to you. Do it no matter how difficult it may be.

REFLECT

Manuel Sanchez drives a refuse truck in California. He noticed that one little boy's favourite activity was watching the garbage being picked up at his home every Monday. Daniel was five years old and autistic.

In a video posted on social media, Daniel's mother explained how her son used to be afraid of the truck but that his fear eventually grew into a love of trash day.

"He waits all week for Monday morning pickup," she said. "He knows exactly which bins are picked up each week, and Sundays are special for him when he takes the bins out with his dad.

"Our garbage recycle man, known only to us as Manuel, is his favourite. He always has a big smile for Daniel, who is faithfully waiting for him every Monday. To Daniel, trash pickup is like a symphony. He synchronises his hand movements with the truck," she wrote.

One Monday morning, Mr Sanchez pulled

up outside the family home as usual, to Daniel's absolute delight, and then asked Daniel's mother if it would be okay to give her son a present.

He then got out of the truck and walked over to Daniel with a bag. Inside was a large plastic truck – a toy version of the garbage truck.

Daniel was so overcome by the gift that all he could say was a quiet "Thank you."

"One man, one moment, touching the life of an autistic child... our hearts are overflowing," Daniel's mother wrote in a Facebook message. The video showing Mr Sanchez's surprise for Daniel quickly went viral.

Later it transpired Mr Sanchez had brought the truck out of his own money. It was a beautiful act of love. He didn't have to do it. Nobody would have expected him to do it – but he did it anyway. You could say he went the extra mile.

And that's what today's Gospel is about too. It's about going the extra mile.

In today's second reading, there is a line that gets to the heart of why we must go the extra mile. St Paul reminds the people of Corinth that they are God's Temple. The Jewish people believed that God dwelt in the great Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple was God's earthly dwelling place. But St Paul reminds us that God lives in each of us, that God's Holy Spirit dwells in each of us. Each of us is a temple of God – and so each of us is unique, precious, priceless, irreplaceable.

Since each of us is a temple of God, that must shape how we see and treat each other. He mightn't have articulated it like that, but that's how Mr Sanchez saw little Daniel – as someone who reflected God's presence in a particularly beautiful way because of his condition.

Living the Sermon on the Mount is about seeing and treating everyone – everyone – as God's holy Temple. What a different world we would have, and what different debates we would conduct if we could act like that. ■