

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

13 September 2020

Infinitely loved

The parable of the unforgiving servant highlights the generous love of God and sets a blueprint for our treatment of others. The master who cancels the servant's large debt does so out of compassion, and the servant is grateful – but not so grateful that he is willing to take pity on a fellow servant who owes him just a small amount. It seems he has learnt nothing; he has neither appreciated the gift he has been given, nor is he willing to pass it on to others.

We are each loved infinitely by God. He has provided us with every good thing, and we are expected to live accordingly. Because we have been loved, we must love. In this Season of Creation we focus in particular on our relationship with creation. We have been gifted with this wonderful world, with all its beauty and natural resources. Yet in so many ways, we have failed to appreciate this gift. We depend entirely on the earth's resources, yet instead of respecting them we have plundered them, causing great harm to the earth and its inhabitants. We have built comfortable and cheap lifestyles at the expense of the world's poorest people. If we carry on this way, there will be no gift to pass to future generations. We are like the servant in the gospel – taking, but giving nothing in return.

Today, we are called to act as people who are loved infinitely by God. All of creation speaks of God's love for us. We are deeply connected with the earth and all of its people. We must live a life which is not centred exclusively on ourselves, but on the needs of others.

'Creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion.'
(Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*) *Triona Doherty*

Announcements

Last week's collection amounted to £2600.00. Thank you.

Those who pay to the weekly collection or any special collections, including Priest's Collection, by cheque are asked that all should be made payable to '*Melmount Parish*'.

Parishioners can still leave their contributions in the Parish Office during this time of uncertainty. Contributions can be made by cheque made payable to Melmount Parish or cash. If the Office is closed please use the letterbox.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

There will be ***no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*** on Monday 14 September to facilitate a deep clean of the church.

We welcome into God's Family through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Lily Florence Maree Duffy
Aodhan Thomas McShane

Rose Susan Mara Duffy

May they Rest in Peace

Deaths

James Foley, 4 Cluney Gardens
Mena Brown, St. Johnston

Anniversaries

Sonny Magee

Charlie Foley

William McCrossan

Claire McGonigle

Bridie Rouse

Patrick McGurk

Cissy Donaghey

Paddy McGinley

Eileen McBride

Sheila McNamara

Nancy Rafferty

Jim McFarland

Baptisms

To arrange Baptisms please telephone the Parish Office on 028 71383777.

Church Opening Times

The Church will open on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Sunday at 9.30am and close at 5.00pm. On Tuesday and Saturday the church will open at 11.00am & close at 7.30pm. This is to facilitate cleaning and sanitizing.

Bulletin Notices and Anniversaries

All anniversaries and notices for the bulletin should be left at the Parish Office by 10.00am on a Wednesday for inclusion in that weekend's bulletin.

For your safety the main sacristy will be closed before and after masses. If you wish to leave an anniversary during these times please leave the details on the table at the entrance to the altar servers' sacristy.

Parish Draw

Promoters should make their returns for September to the Parish Office **on Monday 21 September from 2.00pm - 4.30pm**. The draw for September will take place on Thursday 24 September at 10.30am in the Parish Office.

Confirmation

Congratulations to all the girls and boys who were confirmed last weekend by Fr. Doherty and also to their families and teachers. A word of thanks to all those involved.

Cleaning of the Church

For your safety the church is cleaned and sanitised every day. There may be times when you will be in the church when the fogging machine is being used to disinfect the seats etc. The product used is called 'DEW' and is non-toxic, hypoallergenic, pH skin friendly and FREE from alcohol, aldehydes, parabens, dyes and scents. It will not harm you or your clothes. We appreciate your understanding in this matter and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living: Drumalis, Larne - commencing Monday 14 September (online by Zoom). Due to the success of last year's course, applications are now being accepted for the new intake of this one-year programme for those who want a closer relationship with God. The '*Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living*' course aims to give you the tools and space to become attuned to God's voice in the midst of the clamour. Taking place over Monday evenings from 7.00pm - 9.30pm by Zoom. When circumstances permit, the option to take part in the Drumalis Centre will also be available. For more information telephone 02828276455/02828272196 (Monday - Friday, 9.00am - 5.00pm) or email maura@drumalis.co.uk. Details are also available on www.drumalis.co.uk.

Melmount Parish Webcam

The Webcam can be viewed by logging onto Melmount Parish Website and selecting view the webcam or by logging onto Churchmedia.tv and selecting Melmount Church from the list available.

Church contributions via a Donate button on the parish website.

The Donate facility on our Website allows you to pay your contribution to the Church by debit or credit card. If you have any difficulties in using this please contact the parish Office 71383777.

Sacred Heart Messenger

The September digital version of the Messenger will be the last to be offered free of charge to non-subscribers. From October the digital version will only be available to subscribers. The cost is €15.00. We hope you will decide to subscribe if you are not currently a subscriber. The September version can be viewed on https://issuu.com/messengerpublications/docs/messenger_september.

National Grandparents Pilgrimage today Sunday 13 September broadcast live from Knock Basilica at 3.00pm. This year due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Grandparents Pilgrimage will take place online. We invite all children to send a prayer and a hug to their grandparents. We invite Grandparents and their families everywhere to join us in praying for, and with, each other. Please join us online at www.knockshrine.ie/watch.

Secret of Living

The secret of living is learning to pray.

It's asking our Father

New strength for the day!

It's trusting completely that his boundless grace

Will overcome care and each problem we face!

It's walking by faith every mile that we plod,

And knowing our prayers

Bring us closer to God,