

Mallow Parish Newsletter

Sunday 20th September 2020

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Thought for the day : 'the eleventh hour'

If you have ever worked outdoors in the sun, you know how relentless heat and humidity can wear you down. With monotonous tedious work, as the sun rises in the sky, your thoughts inevitably wander and drift, with recurring thoughts of a water break, the end of the day, how much the work is worth – how much you earn per hour, and what you will do with the money earned. At the end of the day, especially working in a vineyard or orchard, the thought that others might be earning at a higher rate for the same – for less work would be bound to fill you with thoughts of resentment at all the extra hours spent toiling for the same pay as someone who worked only one hour as described in today's parable.

The work conditions described there simply would not work in the 'real world' of trade unions and employer-employee brokered pay agreements.

This Sunday's Gospel therefore contains a very challenging and disturbing parable, because it describes what appears to be a very unreasonable, inequitable and unworkable overall arrangement. But this most thought-provoking and puzzling of parables points to a higher truth – that of God's generous mercy – to do and see as He sees fit – or, as God says in the words of the first reading from Isaiah, 'my ways are not your ways'. The landlord in the Gospel is just insofar as he pays the agreed rate with each person, but generous to a fault in giving late-comers an overall better rate per hour. To Jewish converts and early Christian disciples the parable points to the salvation offered by God in the first place (the workers labouring from the early hours) to the Jews – whose religion and history dates back 1200 years to Abraham and 600 years to Moses. But now, with the coming of Christ, salvation is offered equally to pagans or Gentiles – at the eleventh hour. Therefore, Jewish faithfulness established over many hundreds of years seems now to avail little, if any, advantage in the long run. The moaning of the all-day labourers reminds us of the resentment and the envy of the older brother as well as the undue preferential treatment offered to the younger wayward brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son. There the father rejoices that his son has returned, while the older brother complains that there seems to be little merit in his staying at home faithful to his duty. Throughout the Gospel the Pharisees resent the preferential favour shown to sinners and to Jesus' flaunting of the Jewish Law to show mercy to the 'unclean'. The lesson is that God's mercy (represented by the currency of the time, a denarius) is infinite and way beyond our calculating human standards of 'who deserves what'.

God's mercy and the possibility of eternal salvation is for every person who would turn to him and listen to his invitation to repent and turn away from sin, even if it is at the '11th hour'. There is hope for us all! And that is Good News!

Priests of our Parish:

Msgr. Anthony O'Brien, P.P., V.G. 087 6834193.

Fr. James Greene, C.C. 085 8471249.

Fr. Andrew Carvill, C.C. 022 51606.

Fr. John McCarthy, C.C. 086 8212101.

Sick Calls:- Please call 022 21251

Parish Office: 022 20276

Email: parishmallow@gmail.com

Opening hours: Monday to Friday

9-10 a.m. 10.30-1.00 p.m. and 2-5 p.m.

PARISH WEBSITE www.mallowparish.ie

Watch Masses live from St. Mary's Church

Notices:

The Annual Collection– pink envelope – for the Education of students for the Priesthood & Permanent Diaconate will be taken up at all Masses this weekend. This year our Diocese of Cloyne has 3 students preparing for Priesthood. Please be generous in your support of this special collection.

Holy Hour on Sunday in St. Mary's at 7.30 p.m. Please continue to log in to www.churchservices.tv/mallow to join in daily Mass at 10.00 am; Saturday 6.30 pm and Sunday 8.30 am and 11.00 am Mass.

Catholic newspapers are on sale after Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: St. Mary's Church Thursday after 10 a.m. Mass until 5.30 p.m. Church of the Resurrection Friday after 9.15 a.m. until 10.15 a.m.

Confessions: St. Mary's Saturday after 10 a.m. Mass. Church of the Resurrection Friday after 9.15 a.m. Mass and from 5-6 p.m.

Baptisms: St. Mary's Church: Every Saturday at 5.00 p.m. and 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month at 1.00 p.m. Church of the Resurrection: 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 1.00 p.m. Forms can be downloaded from the website mallowparish.ie or available from Parish Office.

Mass cards available in Parish Office—offering plus card is €11

Autumn Stations 2020

As you know a priest's income in this diocese comes from the Spring and Autumn Station offerings together with Christmas and Easter Offerings. As the churches were closed at Easter, many parishioners who do not use the parish envelope system did not have an opportunity to contribute their Easter Offerings. Since the Autumn Station Offering for the Priests of the parish is dated for next Sunday 27th September, we will offer the Station Masses in the churches beginning Monday 28th September. Due to Covid restrictions house stations unfortunately cannot be held this autumn.

Church of the Resurrection. All southside town station areas in the church on Monday 28th September at 7.30 p.m.
All southside country station areas in the church on Tuesday 29th September at 7.30 p.m.

St Mary's Church. All northside town station areas in the church on Wednesday 30th September at 7.30 p.m.

All northside country station areas in the church on Friday 2nd October at 7.30 p.m.

All Burnfort Areas. Mass in Burnfort Church on Thursday 1st October at 7.30 p.m. No 9.30 a.m. Mass that morning.

All Analeentha Areas. Mass in Analeentha Church on Friday 2nd October at 7.30 p.m. No 9.30 a.m. Mass that morning.

If you are unable to attend your Station Mass you may put your station offering envelope in the collection box any Sunday or drop it in to any of the priests houses or the parish office. If you wish to pay electronically please visit the parish website, www.mallowparish.ie and press the "DONATE" button. Scroll down to "Autumn Station". Another option is to use bank transfer to the parish account using the following details.

Name of Account: Mallow Catholic Church; IBAN:IE62 BOFI 9028 8012 2513 68; BIC BOFIE2D

Notice: Covid 19, unfortunately, is not gone away. We all need to keep vigilant in following the guidelines: washing of hands and sanitising regularly, keeping social distance and avoiding large gatherings of people.

Some months ago the two metre distance between people was marked out in our churches, closing every second seat and placing a white sticker where a person may sit in a pew, generally 3 people per pew. You may not sit or stand anywhere else in the church.

Restrictions on numbers attending indoor gatherings means that not everybody who wishes to attend Mass safely can be accommodated. For the safety of everybody we ask those people who attend Mass on any weekday to please stay away from weekend Masses. This is to have space in the churches for people who cannot attend Mass on a weekday. Remember the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still lifted.

First Holy Communions in the Parish

Congratulations to the boys and girls of the parish who have received their First Holy Communion this month. We thank you, parents, guardians and families for your patience in the delay in the ceremonies due to the lockdown and for your understanding in abiding by the restrictions that had to be implemented in keeping with public health and safety requirements. We wish to thank the principals, teachers and staff of the schools of the parish for their hard work and commitment in sacramental preparation for First Confession and First Holy Communion.

Mater Dei Academy: Cork's Catholic Classical Secondary School for Boys and Girls. Online Open Evening at 7.30pm on Friday September 25th. Register at www.materdeiacademy.ie

Mater Dei Academy is an independent Catholic second-level school in the classical tradition located in Cork city centre.

One Year Catechism Study Online and on Radio Maria With Fr John McCarthy

September 2020-August 2021

Are you interested in learning more about your faith and in sharing it with others? You have an opportunity to do so by reading the Catechism in one year. You need a hard copy of the Catholic Catechism or you can download it from the Vatican website if you want to read it from your computer.

Radio programs on RADIO MARIA accompanying the course have already begun and will continue every Friday God willing at 7pm for one hour so please take notes as you go along and hopefully you will have had taken time to reflect and prepare questions to follow each Radio program. I welcome calls and texts to Radio Maria. If you are interested in the study plan I will send you is a template to work on per calendar dates – you can adapt it to suit yourself. You may want to print out a copy for yourself to take notes etc.

If you wish to receive information by email for yourself or others please email me at frjohnmccarthy@hotmail.com

God bless
Fr John