

Mallow Parish Newsletter

Sunday 11th October 2020

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

We have all been invited to a few weddings in our lives. We can all recall with happiness the great day when a brother or sister or close friend announce their engagement and the anticipation and the countdown to the wedding begins.

In my experience of all the items that are crucial to any wedding preparation, whether it is the venue, the date, the church, the priest, the flowers, the wedding booklet, the honeymoon, the dress, the rings, meeting the Registrar, the dinner menu and so on, the one matter where a couple has their first major row, it is....the invitations! Now, invitations are a source of great excitement for a couple as the invitation cards are sent with anticipation of RSVPs but they can also be a source of disagreement and emotion when budgeting for the wedding limits numbers. There can be disagreement as to how wide or narrow the invitation list will be, and a clash of opinions over who to invite and who to exclude. If parents are paying for a wedding they may have some say in the invitation list. Some guests are invited without a second thought. Some friends as well as the obvious relatives, come to mind readily. Others we may be more hesitant about, as to whether we are that close to them for them to merit an invite.

Wedding invitations in Israel at the time of Jesus were slightly different. A general invitation would first be issued without a firm date set. Servants would be sent at the appropriate time to prompt potential guests that the dinner was ready, but there was an indeterminate lapse of time between each notification. It was up to guests to ready themselves and be prepared at a moment's notice to drop everything at once to hasten to the banquet. As the wedding celebrations could last several days one would need to have one's business and domestic affairs to leave them behind for a while.

This state of readiness in the parable points to what was lacking in the people of Israel, some of whom were too busy pursuing their own interests to make room for the Lord's call, while worse still, others violently rejected the invitation by 'shooting the messenger' as it were.

The parable clearly points to those among the Jews who would not accept the prophets' call to repentance (as in last week's parable of custody of the vineyard) and the invitation is now extended to all 'unacceptable classes' of people who were ready to accept. Their rejection of him is punished severely, and the burning of the city as ordered by the King may well point to the destruction of Jerusalem who rejected and killed the prophets, as well as to the rejection of the Lord Jesus Himself. The historical calamity was in 70 AD. As we are in the closing stages of Jesus' public ministry in the Gospel according to Matthew, before the Passion, the parables of the last few Sundays point to the transfer of stewardship of the

mysteries of God's kingdom from the Jews to all peoples who would accept Christ.

There is a second parable tucked into the first one.

Another source of comment at weddings is how people dress. We can often remark at how tastes differ, to put it mildly, at weddings. We would never consider casual dress at a wedding; therefore an invitation to

heaven is not to be taken lightly either. In fact, it is on merit. The parable describes the only reference to 'gate-crashing' at a wedding in the Bible that I am aware of. The clear lesson is that 'many are called and few are chosen.' The time, trouble and effort to make oneself presentable – polished shoes, pressed suit, ironed shirt., colour scheme, tasteful dress, make up etc is a compliment to the couple, the seriousness with which you take the solemnity of the occasion, respect shown to the host who has condescended to invite you, while also an exercise in self-care and self-respect, taking personal responsibility, showing that you care for yourself and for the importance of the occasion, a level of personal maturity – ready to meet and mingle socially in a relaxed, assured and confident manner.

We must do everything within our power to make ourselves and our lives as worthy as possible to meet the Lord –returning the favour as it were by being presentable to the Lord with deeds of righteousness.

Those called and chosen must prove their worthiness by 'dressing appropriately' by virtuous living. We must realise that the parable teaches us that there is a danger of disqualification. The garment symbolises our good deeds – love of God and neighbour, piety and justice - often a difficult but achievable combination. In a symbolic way at baptism the infant is clothing with a white garment – with the admonition –'to keep this garment unstained unto everlasting life'. Just as a stain on a dress or a suit would be mortifying and unacceptable at a public occasion at a wedding, so we too are called to be washed clean of sin for entrance to heaven.

The response before Holy Communion at the Mass reminds us that the Mass is the foretaste and promise of the heavenly banquet – '*blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb*'. Let us be ready for the call by a virtuous life. By being worthy to receive Him, we are asking to be worthy to be received by Him.



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

Important Notice

**PLEASE NOTE:
LEVEL 3 RESTRICTIONS ARE IN
PLACE**

PLEASE VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
FOR
UPDATES
CHURCHES REMAIN OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER

PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR **MASS
TIMES ON LINE AT ST MARY'S**

**ADORATION ON THURSDAYS AT ST
MARY'S FROM 10.30 AM TO 9.00 PM**

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS:

FRIDAYS 5.00 - 6.00PM AT CHURCH
OF THE RESURRECTION

SATURDAYS 10.30 –11.30 AT
ST MARY'S

SUNDAY NIGHT **HOLY
HOUR** ONLINE AT 7.30 PM
AT ST MARY'S



FOR ALL OTHER QUERIES PLEASE
CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE
(022) 20276

We all need to keep vigilant in following the
guidelines: washing of hands and sanitising
regularly, keeping social distance and avoid-
ing large gatherings of people.

Let us pray for an end to Covid, especially
in this month of October dedicated to the
Rosary.

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
by logging on to churchservices.tv/mallow

Holy Hour on Sunday in St. Mary's at 7.30p.m.

Autumn Stations 2020



**We wish to thank you most sincerely
for your generosity in the Autumn
Station Masses held recently**

As you know a priest's income in this diocese
comes from the Spring and Autumn Station
offerings together with Christmas and Easter Of-
ferings. As the churches were closed at Easter,
many parishioners who do not use the parish en-
velope system did not have an opportunity to
contribute their Easter Offerings. Due to Covid
restrictions house stations unfortunately could
not be held this autumn.

If you were 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
BOFIIE2D**