

# Dunleer Parish Bulletin

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Channel 1: St Brigid's RC Dunleer Parish [Livestream]  
 Channel 2: Dunleer Parish Media [Recordings]



*The Gospel reading is the last ten verses of the first chapter from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. It concludes with a strange request that the followers of Jesus are to be as perfect as God is perfect. The preceding verses are tough enough to hear and to live, but this being God-Perfect is asking quite a bit. The translation of the Greek word teleios, more properly means seek maturity or completeness or simply, 'aim for perfection'. The Greek word for sin, 'Hamartia,' means missing the mark, as in archery. The message is to set our standards high, even when we risk missing the mark.*

*Jesus reverses the common spiralling of violence in his teaching by ratcheting it down in response. He counsels magnanimity; forgiveness and generosity. He advises us to ditch the chips on our shoulders. Nobody forgets where they buried the hatchet, it is written. The scriptures advise us to bury the hatchet and to practice reconciliation. His own last words were such words of forgiveness... 'forgive them'... and 'this day I promise you...'*

*Jesus is not contradicting the Old Testament but is radicalising it, going much further though in the same direction. Being struck on the right cheek entails either a backhand slap from a right-handed person or an open-handed slap from a left-handed person. The left hand in the Middle East is reserved for toilet functions. It is a serious insult to place that hand on the table, use it in eating, or extend it to others. Both slaps are insulting.*

*Having to resort to courts in the Middle East is very shameful. Arguments should be settled long before this stage. Jesus' recommendation to yield more (the tunic) than the plaintiff asks (the cloak) is astounding. The cloak was absolutely essential not only as a piece of clothing but as a sleeping bag. To give this up too would leave one naked, a shameful condition to say the least.*

*Lastly, it was legal and customary for soldiers to force citizens to carry their military gear for one mile. In first-century, occupied Palestine, this soldier frequently was a fellow Israelite who turned mercenary. Carrying the gear was humiliation enough; being forced to do so by a traitorous fellow citizen was even more humiliating. Jesus invites us to astound the soldier who has been schooled in the ways of violence by disarming him with a counter-culture of Christian living.*

*Paul uses many images for the church (garden, building, etc.), but here he uses the image of temple for the first time in his writings. "Temple" brings out the point that the church is the place where the Spirit of God is present. The church does not consist of bricks and mortar but of people; nor is it primarily an organization or institution.*

*Once again the teaching of Jesus sets the bar very high for his followers. There is an astonishing set of teaching here that must have astonished his first listeners. There is moral greatness here. The Sermon on the Mount may seem baffling or even impossible but the message is that God wants to challenge us to be the very best that we can be and to learn how to love in the manner that Christ taught us by word and by example.*

<b>Sat Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 7 30</b>	<b>Sheila Lynch, Paddy and Peter Lynch</b>  <b>May McKenna and Ciaran McKenna Thos and Bgd McKenna</b>
<b>Sun Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 10 30</b>	<b>Teasie and May McCabe and Dec'd.</b>
<b>Sun Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 11 30 a.m.</b>	<b>M Mind (deferred from Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Feb) Bredeen Matthews</b>  <b>Joan Carrie Paddy Lyons and Dec'd fam. Robbie and Sheila Gaffney Matthew and Kathleen Brennan</b>  <b>David Tiernan.</b>
<b>Wed Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 10a.m.</b>	<b>Peggy Carroll and John Flanagan.</b>
<b>Sat Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 7 30 p.m.</b>	<b>Michael Murphy</b>  <b>Catherine and Patk Kelly and Geraldine Kelly</b>  <b>Hugh and Gertie Conlon and Dec'd of Coyle/Conlon families.</b>  <b>Harry ,Maisie and Nollaig Callan. Brenda Higgins, Maggie Meehan and Dec'd of Meehan family.</b>  <b>Peter Eliz and Leo McCullough.</b>
<b>Sun Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 10 30</b>	<b>Brigid Callan Davin Hanratty</b>
<b>Sun Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 11 30.</b>	<b>John and Rose Lyons. Finn Matthews.</b>

Feb 12th Parish Collection €1830  
 Ash Wed Mass at 10 a.m. and Wed Eve  
 at 7 30 p.m.