

Dunleer Parish Bulletin

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Sat 19th 7 30 p.m.	Brenda Higgins Maggie Meehan and Dec'd of O'Brien Family Seamus Reynolds Fintan Matthews B Rem Brian Lynch Av Tom Cassidy and Brendan Cassidy
Sun 20th 10 30	Patsy McCullough Tony McCullough Pat Bellew
Sun 20th 11 30	Mary Reynolds
Mon 21 st 10a.m.	Spec Intention
Sat 26 th 7 30	Jim and Alice Carrie Frank Clare Liam Cosgrove Bernadette McEvoy
Sept 27 th 10 30	Anna and Gerry Monaghan MM John Cassidy
Sept 27 th 11 30	Teresa Farrelly

Pray For:
Gerard Nugent Taaffe
Maev Halpenny R.I.P.

**History of St Brigid's
Church and parish.**
**New book available in
churches and in porch
at side of Parish House.**
**Pre-Launch price 10
Euro. Copies can be
picked up from porch.**

The gospel parable told by Jesus recounts the events of a single day, from sunrise to evening. It is a story of Jesus' time and place and culture. The props of the story were familiar to his readers; a vineyard, a landowner, workers employed and unemployed, and the issue of a just wage. Like all the parables, the story is somewhat provocative. It tries to provoke us into expanding our understanding of the nature of the God we believe in. It is also a parable of the last judgment. It is a reminder that the last can be first and that we should never presume that, because we have worked hard and long for the gospel that we are at the front of the queue.

One of the words for heaven in the Irish language, 'flaitheas' suggests generosity. God is seen as the great host who provides generously for his guests. Heaven is seen as the generosity of God in action. This is a God who is rich in forgiving, who is rich in all things and who is correspondingly generous.

This generosity of God is at the heart of the Gospel story. Those who arrive at the last moment are treated generously by the landowner. God's kindness satisfies justice and then goes further so that the less deserving (in the eyes of the world) may receive as much as the more deserving. God rewards human beings according to an unexpected kindness, goodness and generosity.

The ways and the thoughts of God are not ours, we are told. That can be obvious sometimes. Other times we try vainly to understand the ways and thoughts of God by thinking that God operates in ways which are human. We do an injustice to God by thinking that God is confined by the same limitations as ourselves.

'The heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways; my thoughts above your thoughts', as the prophet Isaiah tells us in the first reading. God created us, we are told, in his own image and likeness. We are constantly tempted to return the favour and mould God in our image and likeness.

The Gospel story makes two points very clearly. God is generous even to those who come at the last minute. God's ways are not our envious ways. Jesus tells the parable to teach us about the kingdom of God and about the generous God we believe in and he has the landowner figure in the parable leave us with a teasing question, 'Why be envious because I am generous? God is rich in forgiving, rich in reward, rich in judgement. God is generous, flaitheas as we say in Irish – and that generosity awaits all who seek God, who turn to God, and who remain faithful.

Congratulations in advance to our young students from Saint Kevin's N.S. who make First Communion on Saturday at 11 a.m.