

DUNLEER PARISH BULLETIN

Rev. M. Murtagh P.P. 041-6851278 Mob 086 879 5804 Feb 26th 2017

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Dunleer	Sat 25 th	7.30	Av	Fr Jim Shevlin David Tiernan Martin & Nora Kennelly Wm & Mary Devine Maisie Callan
	Sun 26 th	11.30	Av	Freda Callan Finn Matthews
	Tue 28th	10.00	Av	Gretta O'Brien
	Fri 3 rd	10.00	Av	Patrick & Mary Commons
	Sat 4 th	10.00	Av	Padraig Callan & Packie & Queenie Callan & Pat Burnes
	Sat 4th	7.30	Av MM	Michael & Esther Lane Geraldine Kelly Niamh Mc Gahon Tony Quinn & Alice & Joe Johnston Agnes Mc Cann
	Sun 5th	11.30	Av	Dympna Malone Julia Clarke Paddy Mc Grory James & Mary Kearney Rose Lyons

Parish Collection 19-02-2017 €1,825.00.**Carers Group 'C' on duty this week.**

St Kevin's Lotto results 16/02/2017 No's 13.15.17.30. Wkly winners Jim Mc Donnell Ardee & Geraldine Dunne. J'pot €4,200.00.

"safeTALK suicide alert training, in Philipstown community centre on Saturday 4th March, 10am-1pm. For further information or to book a place please contact Deirdre 087 6302269"

Pray For: Patrick Lyons Rathescar and Lily Corrigan Kilsaran who died recently.

In a world of largely masculine images used to uncover God to us, we are given a touching feminine image today. God, we are told, is faithful to God's people. Not only is God faithful but that faithful concern is likened to a mother's love for her child. God, we are taught, cherishes people as a mother cherishes the child at her breast; the fruit of her womb. God does not forget or abandon us any more than a mother can forget the child she gave life to. In this imagery the prophet Isaiah has left us with a pen-picture of an intimate, compassionate, ever-faithful parent-God. The poet Patrick Kavanagh reflected this insight in his poem 'God in woman'. 'Surely my God is feminine, for Heaven/ is the generous impulse, is contented/ with feeding praise to the good. And all/ of these that I have known have come from women'.

Christ in his continuing Sermon on the Mount, teaches a spirit of child-like trust. He encourages his listeners and followers to approach God in a manner that reflects the trust, love and faith of a child. He assures us that God will look after us if we allow God to do so. We are encouraged not to put our trust in the world; to practice detachment from all that is earthly; to cease worrying about things that are of no ultimate importance.

The economic collapse that we have observed in recent times has taught many people the truth of some of these maxims from today's Gospel. We cannot serve both God and money. Serving two masters leads to being torn apart. People have seen money disappear and values tumble in such a manner that they will never fully trust institutions or financial schemes again. We have witnessed the excesses of the 'seven fat years' with scandalous expenditure on lifestyle and now we are experiencing the 'seven lean years' of the Genesis story and are brought back to re-ordering our priorities. Set your hearts on the Kingdom of God, Christ teaches, and all that you really need will be given to you. Seek righteousness and richness of character - for the rich can often be thought of as really and inwardly poor; poor in love; poor in hope; poor in charity and lacking in humanity.

Christ teaches us not to be over-concerned with tomorrow. 'Tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own'. All of us seek some kind of security in money and material goods. 'Money does not buy happiness' we are told, but as others have observed, 'it helps to finance the illusion'. Possession of money gives us choices and people like to provide for their families and their futures. The question is one of ultimate trust. Whom do we serve when choices have to be made? Money is a touchstone where morality is concerned. All kinds of principles and virtues can evaporate when money comes into the equation. 'Every man has his price' as the maxim puts it. We are tested by the presence or absence of money and by our use of material and earthly resources.

The overarching teaching of Christ in this segment of the Sermon on the Mount is to be found in the mother/child imagery of the first reading. As a mother does not abandon or forget the child of her flesh, so we are told that God does not neglect God's people, made in God's image and likeness. In turn, God invites us into a relationship which is child-like in its generosity and simple in its loving trust.