

PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, 26th Sunday of the year (A), 1st OCT 2023



Jesus was not speaking in the abstract. His listeners would immediately identify who the son was who said Yes and then did not go: it was most of themselves! - particularly the Pharisees. They were the people of the Covenant who had said Yes to God. The son who said No stood for the Gentiles, and also for outcasts such as tax-collectors and prostitutes. But the point of the parable was to blow away that clear distinction. What counts, he said, is not whether you say Yes or No, but what you do. It was his consistent teaching. Another time he said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who *does* the will of my Father in heaven" (Mt 7:21); and "Whoever *does* the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother" (Mt 12:50). The tax-collector in the Temple went home "at rights with God," while the Pharisee did not (Lk 18:14).

It is very upsetting to have the lines of demarcation moved. Someone once said that Jesus was the greatest disturber the world has known! He was a disturber of the peace, and still is. Wherever there is a wrong kind of peace he disturbs it. If he is called Prince of Peace

it is not because he helps us relax with our complacent map of the world - in which the 'right people' are clearly distinguished from the 'wrong people' - but because he brings "a peace the world cannot give."

We need not imagine that Jesus would leave us in peace if he walked our streets again. In the Church we regularly settle for a peace that the world *can* give: clear distinctions between insiders and outsiders, with a condescending attitude to people of other beliefs; and within the Church a culture of preferment and privilege and honours, which defies the Gospel by saying, in effect, "The first shall be first and the last shall be last." "How very many sheep there are outside the Church," St Augustine wrote, "and how very many wolves within!"

But everything comes back to one's own Yes or No. In the light of this reading, Yes and No are not words we say but things we do. A Yes that is said but not done is only an evasion. This Faith was made for walking.

Donagh O'Shea OP, www.goodnews.ie

NOTICES

COLLECTIONS:

Offertory: €1370

Share: €690

Envelope: €55

ROSARY SUNDAY

This Sunday, 1st October, is Rosary Sunday in Dominican Churches. A **special Collection** will be taken up during all Masses **for the support of our Irish Dominican Students**. This Collection will replace the **Share Collection**. Please support as generously as you can.

FIRST FRIDAY

Next Friday, 6th October, being a First Friday, Holy Communion will be brought to the sick and housebound of

the Parish. If there is somebody who may not be on our list that you think should be, please let us know.

MASS IN IRISH

Next Sunday, 8th October, at 9.00 am.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION

will be taken up after each mass next Sunday, 8th October.

SUNDAY WORD GROUP

A meeting for anyone interested in reflecting on next Sunday's Readings for Mass will be held in the Large Parlour of the Priory this **Wednesday, 4th October, starting at 8.00pm**. The meeting will be led by a member of the Parish Team and will end at 9.00pm. All are welcome.

SYNOD 2023 NEWSLETTER No1

You can find the Synod 2023 Newsletter on the table at the back of the church. The newsletter contains Archbishop Farrell's letter ahead of the Synod in Rome.

NATIONAL DOMINICAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK



Sunday, 8th October 2023

Coach departing from outside the Priory on that Sunday at 8.30am.

Prices of tickets: €50.00 for an adult;
€25.00 for a child.

A morning snack and evening meal included.

Tickets available from Priory Reception, Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 6.00pm.

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