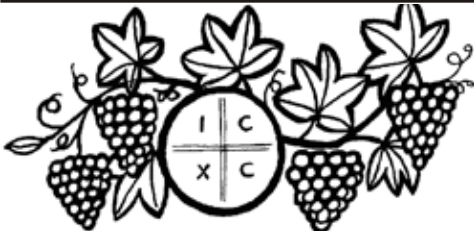


# PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year (A), 8<sup>th</sup> OCT 2023



## „I am the vine”

To the Jews of old the vine was a symbol of their own race, their very identity. God took them from the land of slavery and transplanted them in new soil: “You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations”.

In countries where the vine does not grow, some of the detail is lost on us. The vine is a most vigorous plant and needs severe pruning. It displays a great abundance of leaves, but only some of the branches are fruit-bearing. The ones that produce only leaves have to be cut back drastically, otherwise they rob life-giving sap from the others. The wood of the vine is perfectly useless, not even making good firewood. So it was usually just put in a heap and burnt, to get rid of it. We get the point of what Jesus once said: “Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire”. The aspects of our life that are not fruit-bearing are for pruning, so that we might bear fruit. Leaves are the plant thinking of itself, fruit is the plant thinking beyond itself: thinking of the next generation. We are to think beyond our own interests. The sap in us is the life of Christ. It is for fruit-bearing; we are not to turn it into stuff that is not even fit to make a fire.

The hedge was for keeping out animals and thieves; the tower was a place from which to watch for them. There was no doubt about where the boundaries

lay. In Tuscany, Italy, I saw miles and miles of vineyards, but they were not divided: all were one vast plantation of vines. The neighbours know, apparently, where one ends and another begins. (...) Yes, we have our own space, but we are not divided from others. This seems a perfect arrangement, a perfect image of harmony. But today's Gospel story is from a world that divided property jealously. (...) Whenever I bar people from my life I am subscribing to the formula for violence; it is a kind of ethnic cleansing on a small scale. In the parable the tenants ended by killed the son.

Yes, there is a sense in which I *am* my neighbour. If I exclude someone from my life I am excluding myself from full humanity. But the image of the vine has an even more startling thing to show us: “I am the vine, you are the branches,” Jesus said. But the vine *is* the branches! Unlike trees where you can distinguish clearly between trunk and branches, the vine is just all branches. “I am the vine and you are the branches”: the vine *is* the branches. Jesus is more than just a neighbour who makes no distinction between what is his and what is yours. In a real sense he *is* you, and he is also your neighbour. To banish your neighbour from your life is to banish him. To lop off a branch is to lop off Christ.

*Donagh O'Shea OP, www.goodnews.ie*

## NOTICES

### COLLECTIONS:

Offertory: €1515

Rosary Sunday Collection: €1974

Envelope: €85

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION

will be taken up after each mass today, 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> October.

### MASS IN IRISH

today, 8<sup>th</sup> October, at 9.00 am.

### SYNOD 2023 NEWSLETTER No2

You can find the Synod 2023 Newsletter or this Sunday, October 8 on the table at the back of the church.

## NATIONAL DOMINICAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

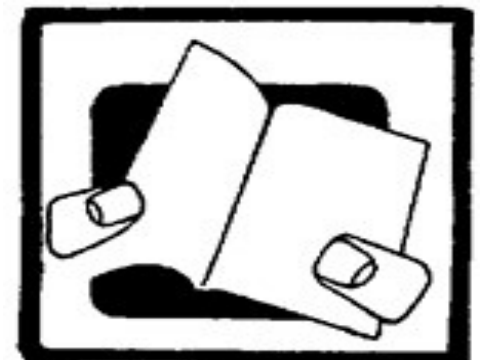


Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023

A group of our parishioners are participating in the pilgrimage to Knock Today.

### 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, 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



### READ OUR WEBPAGE

[www.stmarys-tallaght.ie](http://www.stmarys-tallaght.ie)

[facebook.com/stmarystallaght](https://facebook.com/stmarystallaght)

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