

PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, 5th Sunday of the year (B), 4th February 2024



THE PROBLEM OF SICKNESS AND SUFFERING

On 11th February, (Next Sunday), we will celebrate two great events, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick, chosen to be commemorated on this feast. The first lesson we can put into practice is what we have read in this Sunday's Gospel passage: bring the sick and those with sin, a sickness in itself, to Jesus. There is no doubt that he can heal and that he wants to heal everyone.

Then remember that God does not cause suffering but alleviates suffering and evil. That was one of the great missions he gave Jesus and how he worked to assist people! We see that the two outstanding apostolates of the Church in the world are, and always have been, teaching and healing. It is the Church's way, because it is the way of Christ, of standing beside people in these needs.

God does not abolish evil and suffering. They can serve some great purposes. One is that it is a wonderful way to be Christ-like. Even at his birth he was rejected (no place in the inn; flight into Egypt), opposition all through his public ministry, even from disciples as in today's reading, and, of course, his Pas-

sion and Death. Like Jesus, we can offer all our sufferings for the conversion of sinners, ourselves and others.

Fathers have always seen discipline as necessary for their children as a means of formation. Children might object at the time but with hindsight they have been happy with their discipline. God too is our Father. We certainly need discipline from him as our life-styles indicate.

In many cases the only way God could overcome the evil perpetuated by certain people would be to take the free will bestowed by him on all people, negating the very principle of the creation by and for love. He would have to resort to killing (murder), violence, injustice, going back to the principle of "an eye for an eye".

Evil and suffering do not hold us back from God. It may affect our comfort and pleasure. But, if used according to his will, it can be the great means of our entering the glory of heaven.

+Fr. Paschal Tiernan OP

NOTICES

COLLECTIONS

Offertory: €1369
Share: €631
Envelope: €15

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION

will be taken up after each mass next Sunday.

PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Parents with young children are most welcome to attend Mass in St. Mary's Church, Tallaght, despite the fact that that is going to involve noise and disruption on occasion. We appeal to you to be patient and tolerant. And we appeal

to parents to try to keep their young children quiet and under control. We appreciate that this is easier said than done!

CRAFT & CHAT GROUP

St. Mary's Parish Craft & Chat Group will resume on Tuesday 13th February at 2.00 pm in the Priory. All are welcome to come and share crafting skills. If you are not 'crafty' just come along and enjoy the company and light refreshments.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Billy Dunne**, formerly Bancroft, whose funeral was from this Church during the week.

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, 7th February, 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.



3rd – 11th February 2024

- Sat (3rd Feb): Mass at 10.00am
- Sunday (4th Feb): Mass at 12.00pm
- Mon-Sat (5th-10th Feb): Masses at 10.00am
- Sunday (11th Feb): Mass with the Sacrament of the sick at 3.00pm.

Preacher: Fr Kellan Scott OP, Galway

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