

PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, 1st Sunday of Lent (B), 18th February 2024



Repent, and believe in the Gospel

Like John the Baptist, Jesus preached repentance, in other words, revolution. The Greek word translated by 'repentance' is 'metanoia', which means literally 'a mental revolution', a change of mind and heart. The world has seen many revolutions, practically all of them violent. All violent revolutionaries become dictators on the day after the revolution, claiming to be safeguarding the revolution. Bitter experience shows us that the revolution serves the dictatorship, not the other way around. The seizing of power becomes an end in itself, rather than a means. Jesus' revolution was of a different order. He refused the way of power: "put down your sword," he told Peter.

Jesus was first in the desert, where he confronted the wild beasts and the demons. It was an example to all revolutionaries. They should first go into the desert of themselves and face their demons there; otherwise they will project them onto other people and try to destroy them by destroying people. Revolutions, like charity, should begin at home. Reformers should first reform themselves. The axe is laid to the root of the tree, said John the Baptist – *my* tree, not someone else's; *my* ego, not other people's.

Revolutions are nearly always *against* something or someone. That way, they draw on the energy of hatred, which is more easily accessible than the energy of love. But we do not become good by fighting evil (we would soon find ourselves using the same means as the enemy); we become good by doing good. Jesus did not say, Repent and destroy the class of people who are bad news. He said, "Repent, and believe the good news."

A revolution of love appears soft and ineffectual beside the other kind. But love is stronger than death. St Paul could write, "We are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.... In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:36-39).

Donagh O'Shea OP, www.goodnews.ie

NOTICES

COLLECTIONS

Offertory: €1379

Share: €595

Envelope: €40

Novena: €923

COLLECTION FOR ACCORD

The annual collection of ACCORD, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family will be made at all Masses today. ACCORD continues to offer:

- Marriage Preparation courses
- Counselling for couples and individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships
- *Relationship and Sexuality Programme* for

schools.

The Collection for ACCORD will replace the usual Share Collection

TROCAIRE BOXES

Envelopes with Trocaire fast Boxes available at back of Church. Your contributions enables Trocaire to continue humanitarian relief in places of need.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT

Stations of the Cross for Lent each **Friday evening** in this Church starting at **7.30pm**. All are welcome.



We continue to welcome in a particular way those **children who are preparing to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion** for the first time later this year. Our focus this month is on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which all members of our parish family are invited to celebrate, particularly during Lent. Pope Francis urges us to "Be courageous, and go to confession". He tells us, "Jesus will be there, and ... he will receive you with so much love!"

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **John Gallagher**, Bancroft, whose funeral was from this Church on Saturday.

READ OUR WEBPAGE

www.stmarys-tallaght.ie

PARISH & CHURCH NEWS;
TIMES FOR CHURCH SERVICES;
COMMENTARY ON
SUNDAY GOSPEL

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