

Parish Notices

COLLECTIONS

Offertory: €1297

Share: €754

Novena Mass: €612

Envelope: €145

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR ACCORD

The Annual Collection of ACCORD Dublin, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be made at all Masses this weekend. The Collection for ACCORD will replace the usual Share Collection.

ACCORD Dublin throughout the Diocese offers:

- Marriage Preparation courses,
- Counselling for couples and individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships,
- A relationship and Sexuality Programme for schools.

ST. MARY'S PARISH CRAFT & CHAT GROUP

All are welcome to the Priory this Tuesday from 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. to meet like-minded people for a chat and light refreshments while sharing ideas and skills in knitting, crochet, embroidery, cross-stitching, paper crafts, etc.

PARISH COFFE MORNING

will take place this month on Wednesday 19th February

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. Every year, the worship service focuses on a different country and a specific theme. The theme for this year is **"Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk"**

The Women of **Zimbabwe**, have prepared the service for this year.

Through preparation and participation in the worship service, women worldwide learn how their sisters in other countries, languages and cultures understand the biblical passages in their context. Women's World Day of Prayer aims to demonstrate that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

Men and women are warmly welcome to come to this prayer service, which will take place this year in the **Church of St Thomas the Apostle, Jobstown, Tallaght on Friday 6th March 2020 at 7.30.p.m.**

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE - COPING WITH LIFE ALONE

A voluntary peer **support group**, led by trained facilitators dedicated to helping people through their grief and sorrow **invites** those **who suffer a loss** (men and women separated, divorced or widowed) **to a One-Day Coping with Life Alone Programme on Saturday March 7th @ Carmelite Centre, Whitefriar Street Dublin 2.** It will allow you to work through your initial grief in a safe, confidential and supportive atmosphere with others who have suffered similar losses. For more information please contact Louise at : bedublin@gmail.com or 086 0877379 or beginningexperiencegbandi.org

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of Fr. Luke Dempsey OP of this Community and Karen Byrne (Jobstown), whose funerals were from this Church during the week.

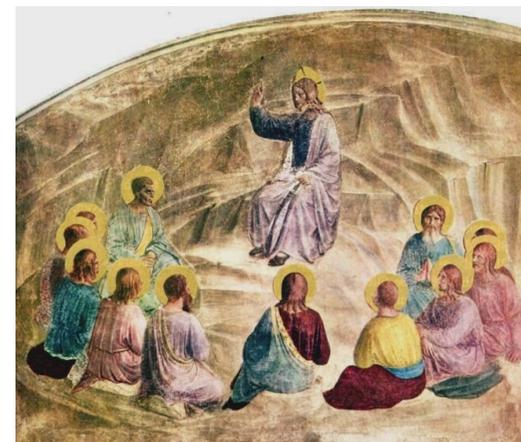
PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, 6th Sunday of the year (A), 16th February 2020

I HAVE COME NOT TO ABOLISH BUT TO FULFIL THE LAW

In today's reading, Jesus might appear to be exceeding even the Pharisees in strictness of interpretation of the Law. "Until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished." Many Christians (and others) have a core feeling that religion is essentially about strictness and restraint; and so they feel that the more rigid they are, the more religious. Of course there is a place for strictness and restraint, but it is not the first place. Without wishing to trivialise this, one could imagine a driver who rigidly observed all the rules of the road, but drove "without due care and attention." It would be hard to imagine Jesus on the side of the Pharisees; so we have to read this passage very carefully.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but *to fulfil*." When is a law perfectly fulfilled? When it is observed to the letter? Hardly. The scribes and Pharisees adhered to the letter of the Law, yet Jesus accused them of "setting aside the commands of God and clinging to human traditions" (Mk 7:8). A law is being fulfilled, surely, when the *purpose* for which it was made is being fulfilled. A law is a means to an end; but if the end is being subverted by the law, then it is no longer a law. This is the revolutionary teaching of St Thomas Aquinas. Law, he said, is an act of *reason* (ordering a means to an end), not an act of *will*. Law is not the grip of someone's power over you, but guidance for your



mind. It subverts neither your mind nor your will, but guides you along a path. It does not take away your freedom, but supports, enlightens and defends it. This is how there can be such a thing as the law of God. It makes us open our eyes, not close them. Strictness is not the essence of law; the essence of law is *seeing*. Jesus told the Pharisees they were "the blind leading the blind" (Mt 15:14).

"Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees," Jesus said, "you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." For 'exceeds', another translation says 'goes deeper than'. A shallow religion has to compensate for lack of depth by excessive strictness; and it tries in advance to make rules for every possible situation. Konrad Lorenz gave a memorable description of the little semi-blind creature, the water newt, that makes its way around by memory rather than sight. A superficial religion is like this. We pay a heavy price for refusing to open our eyes.