

Parish Notices

CANCELLATION OF THE PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASSES

Given the constantly changing situation with regards to Covid 19, and the virus' highly contagious nature, we decided to cancel our public celebration of Masses.

We invite you to unite with us in celebration of the Eucharist and Prayer through the Internet (see below).



www.churchservices.tv/tallaght#

Services broadcast from our Church in the current pandemic:

Weekdays

- 9.30am - Morning Prayers
- 10.00am - Mass
- 6.00pm - Evening Prayer
- 8.00pm - Rosary and Adoration of the Most Holy Sacrament

Sundays

- Saturday 8.00pm - Sunday Mass in Spanish
- 10.45am - Morning Prayer
- 3.00pm - Mass in Spanish
- 11.15am - Mass
- 4.30pm - Mass in Polish
- 6.00pm - Evening prayer

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Loving and healing God, we implore you for an end to the coronavirus; for relief for those afflicted with it and for eternal life for whom the Lord has called to himself.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, health of the Sick and help of Christians, our Advocate, help suffering humanity, saving us from the evil of this pandemic and obtaining for us every good necessary for human salvation and sanctification.

Loving and healing God, bless N., your beloved. Fill her / him with your abiding presence and grant her / him pardon from her / his sins.

Ease her / his mind.

Strengthen her / his body.

Let her / him be serene in hope, and, at the last, bring her / him to the table of unending joys in heaven.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. R. Amen.

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

PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, 5th Sunday of Lent (A), 29th March 2020

Life in Death

It was dangerous for Jesus to go to Judea again; the authorities were determined to seize him. When he decided nevertheless to go there, Thomas said, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." So Jesus faced death to give life to Lazarus. This is John showing us the *meaning* of Jesus' life, or applying the first brush-stroke in this scene.



An alternative (or more accurately, a disjunction) is not a paradox. *Life or death* is not yet paradox; the paradox is *life in death*. Johann Tauler (1300 – 1361) wrote: "If only we could seek joy *in* sadness, peace *in* trouble, simplicity *in* multiplicity, comfort *in* bitterness! This is the way to become true witnesses to God." *Life in death* is what we are going to see in this scene. To make it quite clear that we are not dealing with a disjunction but with a paradox, he tells us that Lazarus has been unmistakably dead for four days.

A disjunction is easy to understand. It is the way of ordinary rational thinking: yes or no, right or wrong, good or bad.... It keeps the two elements carefully apart; it makes opposites of them, it makes enemies of them. It has the appearance of being very clear and strong: if you talk, for example, about an "Axis of Evil", you expect nothing from them and you give them no quarter. It also looks scientific (computers are built on this principle); but it is also quite fictional. Oscar Wilde once remarked, "In fiction, good people do good things and bad people do bad things; that's why we call it fiction." In reality, good people of-

ten do bad things and bad people good things. Any account of human affairs that sees only disjunction would be a handbook for war, or a work of fiction, but not a gospel of life.

We spend our life trying to avoid even the thought of death. (...)

This is not the way a Christian thinks about it. The death of Christ shapes our consciousness of death. St Paul wrote that we are "baptised into his death" The word 'baptised' means 'plunged'. "By baptism we have been buried with him into death." This is not running away from death and the thought of death. It seems more like running *towards* it. Why? Because "just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." The place of death is the place of resurrection. The resurrection is not an alternative to death; rather it is in death that resurrection is to be found. We are delivered from the crippling fear of death and of everything that reminds us of it. This frees us to live.

Donagh O'Shea OP, www.goodnews.ie