

Parish Notices

COLLECTIONS

Offertory: €1180
Share: €829 (ACCORD)
Envelope: €35

COFFEE MORNING

will take place this month on Wednesday 23rd February after 10.00am Mass.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Leszek Sękowski**, Rathfarnham and Poland and **Gerard Kennedy** Kimmage and Celbridge, whose funerals were from this Church during the week.

SYNODAL INVITATIONS

In preparation for the Synod to be held in Rome next year, Pope Francis has asked all parishes to organise gatherings next month. During these gatherings, people are asked to share and to listen to each other and to the Holy Spirit. The two gatherings for St. Dominic's and St. Mary's Parishes are fixed for Monday, 14th and Monday, 21st March, in the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, each gathering starting at 7.30pm. For further information, please see the Invitations on the table at the back of the Church and take one for yourself or for a neighbour or a friend.

DISTRIBUTION OF INVITATIONS TO SYNOD

The Invitations are at the back of the Church. We need help from parishioners to distribute these invitations to all houses and apartments blocks of the coming weeks. Please contact the parish team if interested in distributing invitations.

PRIOR AND PARISH ADMINISTRATOR : Fr Donal Roche OP; PARISH SISTER: Sr Noelle Jennings OP
DEACON: Br Eamonn Moran OP, CURATE: Fr Robert Regula OP
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SYNOD PRAYER

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path

nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen.

Mass Schedule

- **Weekdays** – 8.00am, 10.00am and 1.00pm
- **Saturday** – 8.00am and 10.00am + Vigil Sunday Mass 7.30pm
- **Sunday** – 8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm and 6.00pm
- **Polish Mass** – 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 4.30pm

READ OUR WEBPAGE

www.stmarys-tallaght.ie
facebook.com/stmarystallaght
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PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, 7th Sunday of the Year (C), 20th FEB 2022

Love your enemies.

We should love our enemies. We should be pacifists. But pacifism is not another word for passivity. We are not called to be passive. Jesus was not passive, he was very active on the day he drove the traders and their animals out of the Temple: "Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!'" (John 2:15-16). (Incidentally, it does not say, as some translations suggest, that he used the whip on the traders.) Nor was he passive when he healed the man against the protests of the Pharisees: "He looked around at them with anger," and then healed him (Mark 3:5). Passivity is a refusal to use one's strength. But love is strong - "stronger than death." There is a kind of passivity that pretends to be Christian love but is probably just cowardice.

'Turning the other cheek' is not so hard when the cheek is someone else's. A false notion of Christian meekness has often been used to allow violence and abuse to go unchallenged. Do you tell children who have been abused that they should love their enemy? Do you tell the family of a murder victim to love the murderer? I should think you would have to pick your words very carefully, or remain silent. Turning the other cheek is for people who have the power to retaliate but choose not to do so. It is not for people who have no power, no choice. When Peter became violent, Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place....Do you think



that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:53).

But when it is your own cheek, what do you do? What did Jesus do? He did not sink into passivity when the soldier struck him. He challenged him: "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" (John 18:23). The question is *how* you challenge your enemy (assuming that you have the power to do so). The instinct is to respond in kind, to react to violence with violence. We have to see that this is to make yourself exactly like your enemy. In that sense it is no challenge to him; it confirms his view that that is the way for a human being to act. Jesus met violence with reason, not with violence. The enemy doesn't want to see your face or hear your voice. He wants to turn you into an object, and objects don't have faces and voices. If you are only an object, then he finds it easier to take leave of his own humanity. We should not underestimate the power of sheer personal presence. We have to reach somehow behind the violence of the enemy and engage him as a human being. If we can just hold off, he may see the insanity of what he is doing. (...)

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