

# PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year (A), 17<sup>th</sup> SEP 2023



## Not seven times, but seventy-seven times

(...) Forgiveness is a 'nice' word, in the sense that just about everyone would be pleased to be described as forgiving. That should be enough to put us on the alert; we can suspect straight away that many vicious attitudes have attempted to dress up like it.

A good example was given by the man who said that doing an injury puts you below your enemy; revenging an injury makes you even with him; and forgiving an injury sets you above him. Can this be real forgiveness, when it only serves to make you feel superior, to bloat the ego? But there are subtler ones than this.

Someone does me harm, perhaps unknowingly. I lack the courage simply to point it out. Over the weeks (or years) I become full of silent anger. But I am now more afraid than ever to point out the wrong, because anger tends to be explosive and I am afraid of explosions. Instead I swallow it, 'spiritualise' it and tell myself that I have forgiven him or her. Of course I have not. Instead I have swallowed a dose of poison that will kill my relationship with that person. Fear has been masquerading as forgiveness.

Then there is the person who keeps count; there is the person who claims to

forgive but not forget; the person who is always on the lookout for something to forgive; and a host of others. All these forms of forgiveness are counterfeit.

The mark of real forgiveness is a lively awareness that I am in need of forgiveness myself. That is what is missing in the counterfeit forms. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who sin against us." We are set free to forgive others in an uncomplicated way when we accept that our own books are not balanced either – that nobody's books are balanced, that every human being needs another chance, and another: seventy times seven; in other words, endlessly.

If offering forgiveness can conceal many false attitudes, so can asking forgiveness. (...)

It is the free flow of forgiveness – giving and receiving it – that keeps our life simple and free from futile self-justification. The deepest source of this simplicity and freedom is my awareness that God utterly forgives me. Meister Eckhart said, "Whatever God does he does completely, like the cup running over. Whom he forgives he forgives utterly and at once, much preferring great forgiveness to little." (...)

*Donagh O'Shea OP, [www.goodnews.ie](http://www.goodnews.ie)*

## NOTICES

### COLLECTIONS:

Offertory: €1314

Share: €537

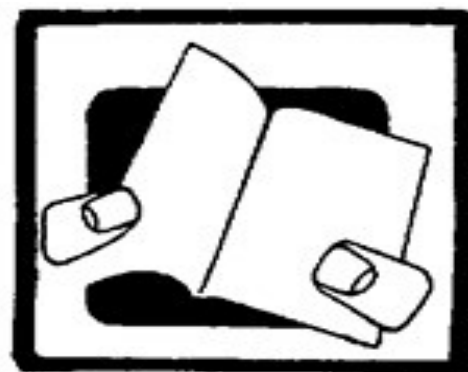
Envelope: €80

### CROSSCARE COLLECTION

The Annual Collection for Crosscare, the Social Support Agency of the Dublin Archdiocese, will be taken up during all Masses today. This Collection will take the place of the usual Share Collection.

### 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, 20th September, 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.



### NATIONAL DOMINICAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK



**Sunday, 8th October 2023**

Coach departing from outside the Priory on that Sunday at 8.30am.

Prices of tickets: €50.00 for an adult; €25.00 for a child.

A morning snack and evening meal included.

Tickets available from Priory Reception, Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 6.00pm.

### READ OUR WEBPAGE

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

Phone: 4048100; email: [parish@stmarys-tallaght.ie](mailto:parish@stmarys-tallaght.ie); website: [www.stmarys-tallaght.ie](http://www.stmarys-tallaght.ie)