

PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, 31st Sunday of the year (A), 5th NOV 2023



Do not be Hypocrites

Great hypocrites are the real atheists, someone said. They clothe themselves with the trappings of religion, but their hearts are untouched by it. In this way they make it appear to the world that religion has no heart.

The Pharisees were a rigorously pious sect within Judaism. But Jesus was in constant conflict with them and called them hypocrites. In asking us to read the above passage today, the Liturgy clearly wants to send a message to their successors: the clerical and other religious figures of our day.

It's never a good time to be a hypocrite. Hypocrisy is harder to practise than almost any other vice. You can speak evil of your neighbours for half an hour a day, you can be a glutton for an hour or two, but you have to be a hypocrite all day long. Has it any redeeming features? Yes, one. If you want to be cured, that is very easily done. It is cured by the mere acknowledgement of it. If you say, "I have a terrible temper," that won't cure you of your temper; but if you say, "I'm a hypocrite," you're no longer a hypocrite. (A real hypocrite would never say, "I'm a hypocrite.") Or, more painfully, if someone else proves you a hypocrite, you can no longer carry it off. There is a great cleansing going on, and the Church is all the better for it. Lamenting the modern age is a fas-

hion with many people, but the modern age has one great virtue: it provides little or no cover for hypocrites.

Office and hypocrisy and flattery go together. There is less guaranteed respect for office now than there used to be. Someone who is propelled into some high office - possibly to his or her own surprise - feels inadequate for the job, and therefore begins to put on an act. There is some kind of deep unrecognised humility in this: someone described hypocrisy as the tribute that vice pays to virtue. The flattery that still follows the job (to some degree) drives that humility further into the shadows, and there is no longer any easy way out. Exposure then is the only way.

"The greatest among you must be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted." The Gospel turns everything upside down, or rather the right way up. The greatest is the least, by the very fact of thinking he's the greatest; and the least is the greatest, by the very fact of thinking he's the least. For a Christian everything is on the ground. The word 'humility' comes from the Latin 'humus', which means earth. St Augustine said that God accepts sacrifices only from the altar of humility. (...)

Donagh O'Shea OP, www.goodnews.ie

NOTICES

COLLECTIONS:

Offertory: €1483

Share: €756

Envelope: €65

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION

will be taken up after each mass next Sunday, 12th November.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Fr Philip McShane OP** and **Kathleen Fitzhenry** (formerly Bolbrook), whose funerals were from this Church in last weeks.



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

COURSE FOR THE READERS OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The course, led by **Fr John Littleton**, will take place in the Priory, on **Saturday, 11th November, after 10.00am Mass**. The course offers training and guidance in the preparation and delivery of reading during church services.

MASS IN IRISH

next Sunday, 12th November, at 9.00 am.

ANNUAL MASS OF REMEMBRANCE: WED 15TH NOV AT 8.00PM

You are all invited to our annual celebration of the Eucharist for our families, friends and neighbours who have died. At this Mass we will remember our parishioners and all whose funerals took place from St. Mary's during the past year.

JUNIOR INFANTS 2024 ENROLMENT ST. MARY'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

Applications from those wishing to enrol their child will be accepted during the period **from 6th to 24th November**. Please visit the school website www.stmarystallaght.ie to complete an application form.

TALLAGHT CHRISTIAN CHOIR

Tallaght Christian Choir are looking for singers and musicians to join the choir. If you are interested, please contact John at 0861751185.