



Parish of Douglas & Rochestown

St Columba's
Tel: 021 489 4128 (Office)
Mobile: 087 2617143

Sunday Mass Times
Sat Vigil: 6pm
Sun: 9.30am, 11am & 12.15pm

St Patrick's,
Tel: 021 489 6797 (Office)
Mobile: 087 638 8655

Sunday Mass Times
Sun: 11am & 12.30pm



Sunday 20 Aug '17

BAPTISMS

We welcome to the Christian community the following who were baptised recently:

- Alice Eve Boland**, daughter of Orla & Michael, Kiltegan Park.
- Fionn James Long**, son of Jennifer & Ben, Old Blackrock Road.

News Desk

Finance

The Offertory Collection last Sunday: St. Columba's: **€2873.** Many Thanks for your generosity.

MUSINGS: Crumbs from the table

She was a lady like many – the woman of the Gospel today. She would fight for her child. So she took on Jesus, the best known religious figure around. Like someone taking on the Taoiseach over a medical card for a chronically ill child, and not letting him off the hook.

Jesus was testing her. He saw faith, but he wanted everyone else to see it. So he told her she didn't fit into the local religious sphere because she was foreigner, an asylum seeker or a refugee. Or a lone mother who had a bad name. She knew she fitted into the heart of Jesus simply because she was the mother of a sick child. Jesus cured her child and praised her faith. She is another of the unnamed ones of the Gospel. Like the woman of Samaria, the rich young man, the thief on Calvary – she is herself, and she is all of us. She is everyone, man and woman, of faith.

Faith in a surprising God who in Jesus his Son never says no to goodness. Faith that keeps us energetic and alive, not tired, in soul as well as body.

Lord, I believe, strengthen my faith.

Intercom

THE DEEP END: Unexpected Encounters

We might wonder why Jesus is so rude and dismissive to the woman in today's Gospel who comes and asks for his help. Does he really call the woman 'a dog'?! Many explanations have been given for Jesus' words with some suggesting that it was an attempt at a first century joke, that he was just 'teasing' (he didn't really mean it!) or that it was an opportunity to test the woman's faith. The disciples also clearly want her sent away.

What happens just before this incident is important. Jesus has just left Gennesaret where the Pharisees have continued to be extremely hostile towards him. Jesus' mission to 'the lost sheep of the House of Israel' is not going so well. So, Jesus 'leaves that place' and goes somewhere that is unfamiliar. What happens in this unfamiliar place is certainly life giving for the woman and for Jesus also. It might be considered a place of new beginnings as Jesus' mission is opened up to those who would have been considered 'unworthy', such as a woman who is also a foreigner. The food rejected by the religious leaders of the time is ending up in unexpected places. It is here that the kingdom grows.

You have to admire the woman's persistence. She is a reminder of people we encounter who have great faith and make a deep impression on us.

We might ask ourselves today: when have experiences of rejection in our own lives led to new possibilities? Where are the unfamiliar places that we must go in order to grow, to embrace new life and new experiences?

Intercom

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 15:21-28

1. Having met with rejection from the Pharisees Jesus goes to Gentile territory and encounters faith in an unexpected place, in the Canaanite woman. His mission had previously been to his own people. This adds a new dimension to his mission. Have you had occasions when a chance encounter set your life off in a new direction?
2. The initial reaction of Jesus to the woman was one of rejection but her persistence won a response from him. When have you found that persistence was needed to gain what you sought? What did that experience teach you?
3. In our days, welcoming the stranger is a challenge. We are more comfortable with our own. What difference has it made when you were able to offer a friendly welcoming face to a stranger?
4. Who are the 'Canaanite women' who call out for attention today – people in Church or State whose needs are not being attended to?

Intercom

Notices

Grandparents National Annual Pilgrimage

September 10th 2017
Knock Shrine 2.30p.m. Every body welcome to honour & thank Grandparents alive & dead for all they have done for us down through the ages. Chief Celebrant Archbishop Eamon Martin - Ballina School Choir - Dana sings 'Our Lady of Knock'

The Irish Blood Transfusion Service

will hold a Blood Donor clinic in **The GAA Hall, Carrigaline 5pm – 8.30pm Monday & Tuesday 21st – 22nd August 2017.** Blood Donation is essential to ensure Hospital Patients get the treatment they need. One Donation can save up to 3 Lives. Full details of all clinics and on Giving Blood can be found on or 021 4807400 /1850 731 137.

The Cork Association for Autism 6km Blue Balloon Fun Run & Walk

will take place in Blackrock, Cork City on Sunday September 10th at 11am. The off road route will start near Páirc Ui Chaoimh, travel along the old railway line, back along the water, finishing at the car park near Blackrock Castle. Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome to take part.

Entry Fee is €15 for adults and €5 for children under 12 or FREE with a sponsorship card. You can register online at or alternatively contact Carol on to request your sponsorship card. Places are limited so register early to reserve your spot.