



**St. Columba's Church
Douglas**
021-489 4128 (Office)
087-261 7143

Sunday Mass
6 pm Vigil, Sun 9.30,
11.00



Douglas/Rochestown Parish

Sunday 15th November
2020

www.douglasrochestownparish.ie

**St. Patrick's Church
Rochestown**
021-489 6797
(Office)

Sunday Mass
Sun 11.00



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The Deep End 15 November 2020 World Day of the Poor

Rising to the challenge

It is hard not to feel sorry for the third servant in today's gospel. The first two servants are praised for making the most of the 'talents' (money) given to them by their master. In return, they are promised even greater things. The third man, paralysed by uncertainty, buries his small amount of money in the ground instead of doing something with it. His actions are based in fear – he has heard the master is tough and he does not want to take any risks. At least he is able to return what he has been given, he reasons.

But he is shocked to learn that instead of praise, or even a neutral reaction to match his own neutral actions, he is reprimanded as 'wicked and lazy' and cast out. This parable has been described as a story of 'tragic miscalculation'. The servant didn't do anything awful – which is why we tend to have some sympathy for him – but he didn't do his best either. The real tragedy is not that he didn't make any more money; it is that he failed to appreciate the opportunity he had been given and to make the most of it.

We are all dealt different cards in life, and undoubtedly some are much tougher than others. We are like the servants in the parable who are given different amounts of money to look after. The point is not the amount of 'talents' given to each. It is not the circumstances of our lives or our natural gifts that are important, but how we use them. Jesus was cautioning against playing it safe. Instead of turning inwards or living in fear, we are called to meet challenges head on and discover what wonderful things might happen. *'Talent is like electricity. We don't understand electricity. We use it.'*

Prayer in time of Pandemic (adapted from Kildare and Leighlin diocese)

Loving and healing God, we, the people of Cork and Ross turn to you in prayer, confident that you are with us and with all people in every moment. We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May your faithful love support us and soothe the anxiety of our hearts. Generous God, fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old, that we may look after one another in these challenging days. Bring healing to those who are sick with the virus and be with their families. May those who have died rest in your eternal embrace. Comfort their family and friends. Strengthen and protect all medical professionals caring for the sick and all who work in our medical facilities. Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and governance that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of people. We pray in gratitude for all those in our country who will continue to work in the days ahead in so many fields of life for the sake of us all. Bless them and keep them safe. O God of creation and life, we place ourselves in your protection. May the mantle of your peace enfold us this day and in the days ahead. in so many fields of life for the sake of us all. Bless them and keep them safe.

O God of creation and life, we place ourselves in your protection. May the mantle of your peace enfold us this day and in the days ahead. St Finbarr, pray for us. St. Columba & St. Patrick, pray for us. All Saints of Ireland, pray for us. All holy men and women, pray for us. Amen.

Lens of the Gospel 15 Nov. 2020 World Day of the Poor

1. A gift given in love, is given to be enjoyed, treasured, and used. Through fear, one servant failed to recognise the loving trust being shown to him and buried the talent. When have you found that overcoming fear helped you to make the most of opportunities in life?
2. On the level of our own personal life, faith is not given to us to be locked away, but to be "traded" with. We trade with it when we believe in its value, trust it, and use it, bringing it into the experiences we have in daily life. Can you recall times when relying on your faith has brought you rewards?
3. Likewise with our own personal gifts and talents. We can fall into the trap of seeing these as our personal possession so that we can do with them as we like, rather than share them as gifts so that they can be multiplied. What is your experience of hoarding or sharing your own gifts? When did you feel most alive?
4. Pope Francis in his letter *The Joy of the Gospel* wrote, 'I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities. ... The important thing is to not walk alone, but to rely on each other as brothers and sisters.' EG (33) How is your parish responding to this call?

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