

St Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown Newsletter

Season of Creation—September 1st—October 4th 2023



SEASON OF CREATION – SEPTEMBER 1ST TO OCTOBER 4TH

Today's Gospel reading is challenging. We hear in this reading from Matthew about the owner of the vineyard who employs people at different times of the day to tend the vineyard. Some work a full day, others only a few hours, and yet they are all paid the same amount. We might agree with the first reading, God's ways are not our ways. The parable challenges our understanding of how we live, work and care for each other.



Many interpretations of this parable see the owner of the vineyard as God and God's people as the workers. During this Season of Creation we are called to

care for the land, to "till it and to keep it" (Gen 2:15). In Laudato Si', Pope Francis invites us to move away from the idea that we have complete dominion over the earth. He says, "we must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God's image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures" (LS, 67). He invites us into a relationship of mutual responsibility with the earth where we take what is necessary for our sustenance but that we also care and protect the land for future generations.

We can also look at this reading from the perspective of what it is to be a just employer and of current employment practices. The landowner in the parable makes a point of going out to engage all those looking for work. In our world today, so many people have to work more than one job just to make ends meet. We often hear of situations where workers are working long hours, for little reward while profits go back to making the businesses richer. There is serious inequality where corporations focus solely on making profits and those who shape our economy keep GDP as the measuring tool. This is often at the expense of the earth and the poor. We are so often told that the richest 10% of the world hold 85% of the world's wealth, while the bottom 90% hold the remaining 15% of the world's total wealth. A recent survey showed that the world's ten richest people doubled their wealth over the past two years, while 99% of others' income dropped.



Pope Francis, in Laudato Si talks about "big picture thinking". Like the owner of the vineyard, we are called to work for the common good, to have a preferential option for the poor, to raise their voices and the voice of the earth, the vineyard. The owner of the vineyard pays everyone the same, regardless of their work. This may sound ludicrous, but parables often leave us puzzled. We might ask the question: what would our society look like if everyone was raised up and empowered? The more we can provide meaningful work with a just wage for all, the more everyone will feel included and can be given the opportunity to flourish. In Laudato Si', Pope Francis urges those in power to work for the "universal destination" of the world's goods and that everyone has the right to their access. (LS, 93). He says, "the rich and the poor have equal dignity, for 'the Lord is the maker of them all' (Prov 22:22; cf. LS, 93).

May we expand our vision and see as Jesus sees. May we see the needs of our brothers and sisters and respond. The parable of the vineyard owner challenges us to grow and to work for the common good, to love God and neighbour so that the quality of life for all may improve. (Author: Sally Simpson - Source: Season of Creation 2023 handbook)

A big Thank you from the White Fathers, Missionaries of Africa, as a parish, we donated €850 to their recent collection.

Croi Mháire Foodbank
Non perishable food items wanted. Please leave in the basket on the extension stage.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

10-12 November: To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Catholic Marriage Encounter. Venue: The Focolare Centre, Prosperous. This weekend is available to all married couples at no fixed charge beyond the deposit of €50 per couple and a voluntary donation. Register online; <https://www.marriageencounter.ie>.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK



Season of Creation

"Earth's crammed with heaven, And every common bush afire with God, But only he who sees takes off his shoes;" (Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

Safeguarding Sunday

This Sunday is Diocesan Safeguarding Sunday. Below is an extract from the Archbishop's letter; "We must look to the future with hope, including the hope that children can be brought back to the Church. We are more likely to succeed in doing so if we can convince their parents that the safety of their loved ones is our utmost concern. We also need a realistic understanding that threats to the safety of children can come from the most unexpected sources and that we can only protect them if we remain alert and vigilant. Finally, I ask you to remember in your prayers all those who have suffered abuse".

Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Aileen Connelly and I thank her for her dedication and commitment to this role.

Blanchardstown Tidy Towns

Thank you for the great job in cleaning the church grounds during the week.

Family Mass

I welcome all this weekend to our Family Mass as it resumes after the summer holidays. I especially welcome the Youth Choir under the direction of our new Choir Director James Murphy.

Fr Michael Carey PP

When I am Among the Trees — a poem by Mary Oliver

When I am Among the Trees, especially the Willows and the Honey Locust, equally the Beech, the Oaks and the Pines, they give off such hints of gladness. I would almost say that they Save me, and daily.

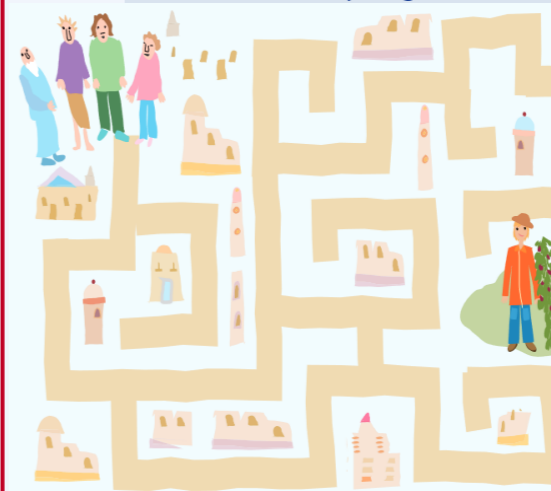
I am so distant from the hope of myself, in which I have Goodness and Discernment, and never hurry through the world but walk Slowly, and Bow often.

Around me the Trees stir in their leaves and call out, "Stay awhile." The Light flows from their branches. And they call again, "It's simple," they say, "and you too have come into the world to do this, to Go Easy, to be filled with light, and to shine.

Children's Corner:

IN THE GOSPEL

God is generous and welcomes everyone into his kingdom. Jesus says God is like a landowner who hires workers for his vineyard. Some people start working early in the day while others only do a bit of work – but they all get the same pay!



Maze

The landowner has come to find some workers. Can you show them the way to his farm?

A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Lord, for loving us all so much. Help me not to grumble when things go well for other people. Help me to be generous and to look at everyone with love and kindness. Amen.

Northside Home Care Services Meals on Wheels

is a service that delivers meals Monday to Friday, to clients in their homes. Would you like us to deliver a meal to a family member or neighbour that could benefit from a nutritious meal and a dessert for €5.50 per day? Contact Ad or Catherine 018058574

Parish Meetings

This week—in the Pastoral Centre

Monday 25th September – 2.30pm—

The Finance Committee.

Thursday 28th September – 7pm—

The Parish Pastoral Council

Friday 29th September—7pm - Teen Hope

Saints in the Church's Calendar

St. Vincent de Paul, priest – 27th Sept. 1580-1660, was born in France and ordained a priest at age twenty. After being falsely accused of theft, he dedicated himself to evangelising the poor and the suffering. He founded the Congregation of Priests of the Mission (Vincentians) and the Daughters of Charity. These congregations, together with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, continue his charitable work today.

Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels – 29th Sept. Gabriel (meaning 'Strength of God') brought the message to Mary at the Annunciation (patron radio and TV workers). Raphael, (meaning 'God heals') guide to Tobias (patron of nurses, physicians, the blind). Michael (meaning 'Who is like God') has been venerated as protector of Christians in general and soldiers. Captain of the heavenly army, victor over Satan, protector of the Church and helper of the sick and dying (patron of radiologists, the sick)

St. Jerome, priest and doctor of the Church – 30th Sept. C. 347-420, translated the Bible into Latin, known as the Vulgate. He went to Bethlehem to concentrate on this work, together with the writing of Scriptural commentaries and theological works. Patron of librarians.

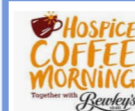
We pray for our recently deceased:

CHRISTINE DINEEN

Always loved, never forgotten



PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR PHONE OFF IN THE CHURCH, THANK YOU



Thank you for your wonderful support for Anne Maybury's annual Hospice coffee morning. Donations are still coming in so we will report the total soon!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday Vigil	Betty O'Gara (MM)	Billy O'Dwyer	Vincent Scully
Sunday 10.30	Betty Smith	Paddy & Maureen O'Hehir	Owen & Donal Garrigan
	Bart O'Brien	Bill Murphy	Patricia Gannon (MM)

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE

Your place in heaven will seem to be made for you and you alone, because you were made for it.... Clive Staples CS Lewis (1898-1963 author of the Chronicles of Narnia)



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