



RONCALLI RANT 4.

Our poetry offering this week is from one of my favorite poets, the much loved Kerry poet, Brendan Kennelly. It's likely he will be a regular guest in Pizza and Poetry. I was drawn back once again to the poem Begin, perhaps because I am trying to begin again here in St. Patrick's and St. Brigid's. Though even a cursory glance at Kennelly's words reminds us that to begin is actually part of who we are.

As I reflected these past few days on the notion of beginning again I suppose it was inevitable that I found myself asking, what do I actually want to begin again, which quickly became what is it that's important? What is it that I want to give time and energy to?

Now I am sure for all of us, somewhere in the answer to this question, is those we love, relationships, our work, our hobbies and interests. Its fascinating to think that there is something, or more accurately someone, that can give all this substance and meaning. Obviously the words faith, religion, Church, and indeed God himself, all form part of what I am talking about. However the most specific and beautiful way I can state it must be rooted in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

When God spoke, he said Jesus. Jesus is the smile of God. Jesus is God's way to be human. God becomes one of us in Jesus. What an amazing gift the Incarnation is to us. That God became flesh. That God became flesh and lived among us.

I suppose we all have hobbies and interests. Priests are no exception, mine include: reading, travel, genealogy, cooking, movies, and dogs. Somewhere in here are the things that we are passionate about: family, learning, adventure and so forth.

I consider myself very blessed in that I love being a priest. Sure I am realistic enough to acknowledge the turbulent times priesthood has come through. We have a greater sense now of a flawed or broken priesthood. It is horrible indeed when priesthood becomes proud and arrogant, self serving and abusive in so many ways. That said, it is still a beautiful vocation. Just as your own vocation as wife, mother, dad, husband, committed baptized Catholic, is very beautiful.

I think I love being a priest because no two days are the same and so much of it is about being with people in the highs and lows of life. I love that the priest is specifically called to celebrate the Eucharist and break God's Word. Most of all I love being a priest because of the intensity of the call to have a deep personal relationship with Jesus of Nazareth. What many forget is that its not just priests and religious who are called to this, but in fact, this is offered to all of us.

When we get serious about knowing Jesus. When we give it time. When we put in the work. When we are generous enough to say that we want to come to know Jesus better and we follow through with the time and effort that this requires, then very quickly the rewards start to surprise us.

Suddenly we are in the fear and anger and shame of Joseph and Mary in the lead up to their marriage. We are in the mess of the crib. We sense the terror of being hunted by the lunatic, King Herod. We grapple with the simple humanity of the five year old Jesus. Soon we plunge into fascinating questions like, when did Jesus know he was God's Son?

It is then we know that the adventure of coming to know Jesus, to some degree to understand him and in our own limited way to love him, amounts to the most exciting and thrilling journey of our life.

Definitely, more anon, but for now, fraternally, JoeMcD

Mass Times: St. Patrick's Church, Celbridge: Saturday (Vigil) 6.30 pm, Sunday: 8.30am, 9.30am, 11am, 12.30pm & 7pm.

Weekday Mass: 10am **Holy Days:** 10am, 7pm. **Bank Holidays:** 10am. **Confessions:** Saturday after 10am Mass

Mass Times St Brigid's Church, Straffan Saturday (Vigil) 6pm. Sunday 11am **Weekday Mass** 9.15am

Confessions on Saturday before 6pm Mass Adoration Friday Mornings after Mass for an hour.

Parish Office hours Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm. (Closed Wednesday) Contact Details: 01 6288827 / 0858662255

Email: celbridgeparishoffice@gmail.com. **Parish website:** www.celstra.ie **Sacristy:** 6275942 (Mass times)

Weekend Mass Intentions

St. Brigid's Church

Saturday 6pm: Mary Sweeney (London)

Sunday 11am: Special intention.

St. Patrick's Church

Sat: 6.30pm: Ann Moore(1st anniv), Frank Finnucane Snr, Paddy Kelly, Ignatius Fox.

Sun: 8.30am: Ellen Conway, special intention

9.30am: Mary Bradshaw

11am: Patrick Swayne, Maureen Holmes

12.30pm: Seán Tansey, Michael Larkin (1st an), Liam Lagan

7pm: Barry McCloin & deceased family members

Weekday Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church

Mon 30th 10am: Elizabeth Shanahan, Ellen & Jack Hunt, Special intention

Tue 1st 10am: Joseph McCormick, Special intention

Wed 2nd 10am: Eoghan Busted

Thur 3rd 10am: Eva Slattery

Fri 4th 10am: Altar list of the dead

Sat 5th 10am: Edith Stirling,

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has resumed in St. Patrick's Church, Celbridge on Thursday night from 7pm - 8pm. The focus is on the coming together to give God praise and to intercede for the sacredness of Life. Please be part of this prayer initiative.

Planned Giving - weekly envelope collection amount was €1138.31. Thanks to all who contributed through the standing orders and the Planned Giving. Thanks also to the collectors and counters.

PIZZA & POET

"Begin"

Begin again to the summoning birds
to the sight of the light at the window,
begin to the roar of morning traffic
all along Pembroke Road.
Every beginning is a promise
born in light and dying in dark
determination and exaltation of springtime
flowering the way to work.
Begin to the pageant of queuing girls
the arrogant loneliness of swans in the canal
bridges linking the past and future
old friends passing though with us still.
Begin to the loneliness that cannot end
since it perhaps is what makes us begin,
begin to wonder at unknown faces
at crying birds in the sudden rain
at branches stark in the willing sunlight
at seagulls foraging for bread
at couples sharing a sunny secret
alone together while making good.
Though we live in a world that dreams of ending
that always seems about to give in
something that will not acknowledge conclusion
insists that we forever begin.

— From *The Essential Brendan Kennelly*

CHILD PROTECTION: Our Parish encourages the participation of children and young people in parish liturgies The welfare of the child is always paramount.

The Dublin Diocese Director of the Child Protection Service is Mr. Andrew Fagan 01 8360314.

Our parish child protection officers are Maureen Giblin, Alan Stirling, Abike Odofin and can be contacted through the parish office.

Irish Hospice Coffee Morning which took place on Thursday 19th Sept in The Mill, Celbridge thanks everyone who attend on the day for their generosity. The amount raised was €3900 and they wish to reassure all that every penny raised will go directly to the hospice.

Concert at St. Brigid's Church Straffan, Saturday 5th October, 2019, entitled "Music from the Heart", consisting of many popular musical, film and operatic melodies. Presented by Kathryn Smith Soprano, Antoinette Heery Mezzo Soprano, Barbara Dunne and Adrian Scahill- Piano and Organ, and Damien Morrissey, Clarinet. Ticket only event. Tickets available after 12.30 Mass in Celbridge, and after all Masses in St. Brigid's Church, Straffan. For further information please 0872 519 771. Doors open at 7.10pm, concert commences at 7.30 sharp.

PET BLESSING SERVICE

Next Sunday 6th October at 3.30pm @ Christ Church (Castletown gates) Our Pets are a blessing to us. Join us in blessing them. Refreshments will be available for all pets and their owners In the interests of safety we would ask that all dogs be kept on a lead and smaller animals in appropriate pet carriers For further info email: stephen.neill@gmail.com Mob: 087-2328172 or watch our parish Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CSNLParish/> or Website: cs-nl.org

Please Support our Weekly Parish Lotto

The profit from our Lotto goes to developing our Parish The prize fund is now at €3100 The lotto envelopes can be placed in the safe at the back of the Church in St. Patricks & St. Brigid's & the collection bags at the Masses. You pick four numbers between 1 - 30 One line just €2, 3 lines €5.

This week numbers were: 1st draw: 4, 15, 10, 11. 2nd draw: 20, 27, 9, 21 3 consolation prize winners: M. Coyne, Laura Connolly, Ann Heffernan Prizes can be collected in the Sacristy during weekend Mass times. Prizes have to be collected within 30 days of the draw. Our next draw will take place on Monday afternoon. Envelopes must be submitted before 10.30am on Mondays

