



We welcome the latest member of our Parish Team, **Fr. Jonathan Nwankwo**.

We hope he will be happy with us and his ministry fruitful.

RONCALLI RANT 8

November can be a very difficult month and yet it also has the potential to be a most rewarding month, at least from a spiritual point of view.

I am inclined to brace myself for November. In the same way that we might get the flu injection or take extra vitamins as a buffer to the germs of winter, I find myself doing a few spiritual press ups as we step into the 'month of the dead'!

In terms of our spiritual life November is serious business. It's no accident that the first two days of this memory laden month remind us of the saints who are now in heaven and the souls who are not there yet, and in that order. All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

The saints referred to here are the big ones, yes. The spiritual giants: Teresa, Francis, Bridget, Bernadette, Pio and so on. However it also refers to the little saints, the saints with a small 's', the deserted wife, the heartbroken mother, the bereft widower, all the uncanonised ones, my great aunt Susan and Uncle Harry. Ma and Da. Home and dry. Safe. Happy. At peace.

What about your own crowd? Who would you reckon, of your family, is now at one with the Lord? Could you name your families ambassadors at the Heavenly Court? Maybe think and pray about this. Especially pray about it. You might be surprised at the whisperings of the Holy Spirit in this regard. Our wisdom is no match for God's and of course it's no accident that we are repeatedly, and strongly, reminded not to judge each other.

As I said I see it as a busy month spiritually and this is precisely because of the fact that November is the month when the Church specifically asks us to be mindful of those who have gone before us. I find it is a great time to remember, to remember and give thanks. To take time to do this can be very rewarding. When I do this I try not just to focus on the more obvious people in my life, for which I am eternally grateful, such as my parents, but to acknowledge all the little acts of kindness and generosity of which I was often the recipient of. I think it's true to say that generally we are not thankful enough.

November is a great time to become more deeply aware that our loved ones are just a breath away, behind the curtain, in the next room. It might be a good time to ask ourselves do we really believe in the 'communion of saints' which we profess in our creed every Sunday? Do we believe this beautiful teaching and do we know how to engage with it.

Now if you pressed me on that, what exactly does that mean? Perhaps it's best explained by way of example. My beloved mother was not born a saint. At times in her life she behaved in a saintly way. Oftentimes this was evident in the sacrifices she made out of love for us, her family. Did she die a saint? Possibly. I do not actually know. What I am confident in is that Bridie is now with God. I often invoke her help. She still loves me. Actually she loves me now with an even more perfect and beautiful love than ever because she is now without sin, pain or suffering.

Which finally brings me back to those uncles of mine. The rascals! I reckon there's a few of them laid up in purgatory. One of them in particular used to say all that religious nonsense is for cissies. I reckon he might have another view on that now. Which reminds me it's nearly November and I better get praying for those who have gone before me and who are still waiting to see God.

I am sure you have no rogues or villains in your family who might be in purgatory but if you did they could do with a prayer. We can do amazing work this month, lighting a candle, having a Mass offered and visiting a cemetery. After all, I am sure we would all like to think there are people coming behind us who would offer a prayer for us. I know I do. Fraternally, JoeMcD

Weekend Mass Intentions

St. Brigid's Church

Saturday 6pm: Edward, Mary, Bernadette Coyne

Sunday 11am: Special Intention

St. Patrick's Church

Sat: 6.30pm: Phil & Annie McGoldrick, Tom & Mary Clare, Mary Smith, Brother Jim Brehoney

Sun: 8.30am: Margaret O' Driscoll, Special intention

9.30am: Mary Gleeson, Anne Kelly, William Pratt

11am: Tom & Patty Bailey (1st anniv for Patty), John Lynam

12.30pm: William & May Ward, Sr. Rosario Ward, Patty Dillion, Terry Ward, Maurice Snr & Maurice Jnr O' Loughlin

7pm: Joan Carey, Mark Byrne

PIZZA & POETRY

FELIX RANDAL

FELIX RANDAL the farrier, O he is dead then? my duty all ended,
Who have watched his mould of man, big-boned and hardy-handsome
Pining, pining, till time when reason rambled in it and some
Fatal four disorders, fleshed there, all contended?

Sickness broke him. Impatient he cursed at first, but mended
Being anointed and all; though a heavenlier heart began some
Months earlier, since I had our sweet reprieve and ransom
Tendered to him. Ah well, God rest him all road ever he offended!

This seeing the sick endears them to us, us too it endears.
My tongue had taught thee comfort, touch had quenched thy tears,
Thy tears that touched my heart, child, Felix, poor Felix Randal;

How far from then forethought of, all thy more boisterous years,
When thou at the random grim forge, powerful amidst peers,
Didst fettle for the great grey drayhorse his bright and battering sandal!

GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS

Planned Giving - amount was €1070.30. Thanks to all who contributed through the standing orders and the Planned Giving. Thanks also to the collectors and counters.

Altar List of the Dead list and envelopes are available at the back of the Church. And can be dropped into the parish office or sacristy, and in the collection bags at weekend Masses. Please do not leave in the safe's or Church for security reasons. Thank you.

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 Saturday before 6pm Mass

Adoration Fri at 9am in St. Patrick's and St. Brigid's after Mass for an hour.

Weekday Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church

Mon 28th 10am: Special intention

Tue 29th 10am: Sr. Martin O' Connor, Sheelagh Kelly

Wed 30th 10am: Special intention

Thur 31st 10am: Special intention

Fri 1st 10am: Altar list of the dead

Sat 2nd 10am: Patsy Magee & deceased family members

ADVANCE NOTICE

Our Annual Mass For the Dead will take place Thursday November 7th 2019 at 7pm in St. Patrick's Church.

Blessing of the Graves on Sunday 3rd November at 3.30pm in Donaghcumper and 12 noon in Straffan Cemetery.

ART GROUP

We are looking for members for our Art Group. We are a small group who meet on Monday's in The St. Eustace Centre (basement of the Parochial House) We meet from 10am - 12noon. All levels or none welcome, nice social gathering. Contact Margaret at 087 6799104

HARVEST DUES

Thank you to all the parishioners who gave so generously to the Harvest dues. It is much appreciated.

Please Support our Weekly Parish Lotto

The profit from our Lotto goes to developing our Parish.

The prize fund is now at €3300

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: 1, 23, 17, 25.

2nd draw: 6, 7, 19, 23

3 consolation prize winners: Patricia Murphy, Kay Doherty, Trish Hyland.

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.



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 only)