



**RONCALLI RANT 5.**

I made a surprising discovery about myself in the past few weeks. This week saw the celebration of two funerals here in St. Patrick's and St. Brigid's. I was surprised and I guess happy that the month of September had come and gone and I had not celebrated a funeral. This would be unusual in my life as a priest. It was a pleasant change to be celebrating weddings and baptisms as well, of course, as the great privilege of daily Eucharist. Yet I noticed to my amazement that I was very aware of the absence of the funeral Mass in my weekly routine. What took me by surprise was that I actually missed funerals. I know it's a strange thing to say but the truth is I like funerals, and whilst it's not a case of enjoying such occasions there is some sense in which I am enthused and inspired by them.

Obviously each funeral is different. All of them unique to the person, ranging from relative peaceful acceptance to absolute heartache. Though I learned a long time ago to be careful about phrases like 'ah well sure she had a good innings!' Even at ninety six she is someone's mother, aunt or sister. I learned this when my beloved paternal grandmother died at one hundred and two. She was a native of Magheraclone, County Monaghan, and people, meaning well said to me 'well she couldn't live forever!' I felt like shouting, I didn't expect her to live forever I only wanted her to live until she was one hundred and three!

Of course there is the other end of the spectrum and that's the tragic funeral, The car accidents, the young person with a deep seated addiction and perhaps saddest of all the issue of suicide. Perhaps the latter is the most difficult. The inexplicable, sudden nature of it and the endless questions that it leaves. Forever wondering did we miss something, could we have done more. Self blame and the hard struggle to let go with any degree of peace. At times in the past we as a Church were not always as compassionate as we should have been on these occasions. Which brings me back to the notion of my missing funerals.

What I really mean is that I see the funeral Mass as a great opportunity to be with people at their most broken, at their lowest ebb. We try words, we try music, we pray. All this is good. The greatest thing we have in the face of the finality of death is the greatest prayer this side of the tomb, namely the celebration of the Eucharist. Jesus died and rose again that we might not die forever.

I was delighted to see that I am not on my own in this role of accompanying people in grief. Here in our parish we have an excellent Funeral Ministry Team. Of course we could do with a few more members. What's it all about? It's about ensuring there is a warm meaningful and respectful celebration of the Funeral Mass that gives the person the honor and dignity they deserve. The Funeral Team is in prayerful solidarity with the bereaved and they represent us as the faith community of St. Patrick and St. Brigid's. The Funeral Ministry Team is engaged in gospel work. Soul work. I am pleased to be part of this team.

Fraternally, JoeMcD

**Celbridge and Straffan Mother's Prayer Group**

The next meeting of the parish mother's prayer group takes place on Tuesday 8th October at 8pm in St Brigid's Church, Straffan. Mothers of all ages are very welcome. We will pray for our children, the children of the parish and children world-wide. We hope to see you there!

**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:** Anne O' Hagan

**Sunday 11am:** John Keating & daughter Fiona

**St. Patrick's Church**

**Sat: 6.30pm:** Tom Geraghty, Austin Cox, Bridget Burchell

**Sun: 8.30am:** Jimmy Condell

**9.30am:** Noonan & O' Neill deceased family members, Michael Hennessy

**11am:** Peter Byrne, Patricia Kane

**12.30pm:** Kitty & Christy Fitzsimons & Corr & Fitzsimons families, Special intention

**7pm:** Special intention

**PIZZA & POETRY**

I SEE YOU DANCING, FATHER

No sooner downstairs after the night's rest

In the middle of the kitchen floor.

And as you danced

You whistled.

You made your own music

Always in tune with yourself.

Well, nearly always, anyway.

You're buried now

In Lislaughtin Abbey

And whenever I think of you

I go back beyond the old man

Mind and body broken

To find the unbroken man.

It is the moment before the dance begins,

Your lips are enjoying themselves

Whistling an air.

Whatever happens or cannot happen

In the time I have to spare

I see you dancing, father.

Brendan Kennelly

A cell group (a home faith group) is a group of four or more people who meet in a home on a fortnightly basis to pray, reflect on scripture and share their faith. A specific format is followed and the meeting lasts approximately one hour. It is a place of welcome where one can find faith friends. An invitation is extended to all to 'Come & See'. Further information: Maura 087 4141706 or Patti 086 3271147 or visit www.parishcellsireland.net

'I am delighted that this form of prayer has been growing in the parish. Lay led, home based, rooted in Scripture and time with the Lord. How inspiring is that?' Fr Joe

**Weekday Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church**

**Mon 7th 10am:** Micheál Connolly, Thresiamma Jose

**Tue 8th 10am:** Gerri Sheridan, Thresiamma Jose

**Wed 9th 10am:** Isabel McFadden, Margaret & Christopher Kenny

**Thur 10th 10am:** Eddie McKone, Thresiamma Jose

**Fri 11th 10am:** Nancy Donoghue

**Sat 12th 10am:** John Murphy

**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** - amount was €890.14. Thanks to all who contributed through the standing orders and the Planned Giving.

Standing Order Amounts: June: €4322 July: €4420, Aug: €4422

**The Society of St. Vincent De Paul** will hold their monthly collection this Sunday 6th October in support of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Your support is vital to the service and very much appreciated.

Please give generously.

**HARVEST DUES**

Harvest dues envelopes can be found on the table at the back of the Church in St. Patrick's and St. Brigid's and can be placed in the collection bags during Mass or left into the sacristy after morning Masses.

Thank you for your generosity.

**PET BLESSING SERVICE**

This 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](http://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 €3150

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: 27, 10, 8, 12. 2nd draw: 6, 15, 19, 3

3 consolation prize winners: M. Coyne, Margaret McCabe, Con Quinlan

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.

