



### RONCALLI RANT 10

Today's rant is best read after reading the poem Last Supper which we have included in today's newsletter.

In this poem I remember the last time I spoke with my beloved Mum, at least the last time I have spoken to her in her earthly existence, though since she has gone to God I speak to her often.

I guess even that immediate notion is one that some people may find strange. In fact it brings us into the core of our faith and one which we often pray at Mass, namely 'the communion of saints.'

I am mindful of those who do not believe. I realize there are people who believe that death is the end. Full Stop. Death and then... nothing. Whilst I respect people's freedom to believe or not to believe I must admit I find the notion of life without God difficult to grasp.

I dug out this poem about my Mum's death conscious that November is the special month in the year when we remember our beloved dead. Though for us who are trying to live a life of faith it is not just about remembering but actually praying for and sometimes to, those who have gone before us. The poem refers to the Sunday before she died. In fact when she was dying I was celebrating Mass in my last parish, St. Matthew's. It was Divine Mercy Sunday. When I was rushing away from the parish an elderly parishioner shouted over to me 'don't worry Father, it's Divine Mercy Sunday, the Lord will see her through'. A few days later when I returned after her funeral I met the same man and he found it hard to look at me and he turned sheepishly away. I went over to him and thanked him and assured him that the Lord had in his mercy 'seen her through'. Through to his kingdom. Through to joy.

In a sense her death was sudden. Yet in some ways she had flagged it for us and herself. Of course we have only one mum and in a sense there is no preparation for her final breath. In the few years since, there are times when it's still difficult to believe that she has died. Of course there have been dark days dogged with regret and longing. Thankfully amidst all this her legacy is one of love and laughter.

I look forward to connecting again with her in that new way beyond our imaginings in God-space. I trust in the promise of Jesus that there's plenty of room there and it's full of love and joy and peace.

I am excited about how the heavenly Bridie will be. I'd say I'll be bowled over when I encounter my lovely Mum in her renewed and glorified state. Bridie without pain, sickness or suffering. The sinless Bridie. The Bridie that now shares in and is part of the Risen Jesus. Yes that will be something...

For now I enjoy glimpses of her on Tramore beach or up at Ballycastle. She shared a love for wet wintry evenings with my brother Larry. I smile at other's attempts to make Carmel shortbread as perfect as hers. Sometimes I see her in kinks of laughter....

Let's pray for them all this November. Fraternally, JoeMcD

#### Mass for Meg Neville

Friends have come together to organise a mass for Meg, the baby and her family. We invite everyone to come to St Patrick's Church in Celbridge on Monday 11th November at 7.30pm, followed by tea and coffee in Scoil Brid. We will conclude in the Church with the prayer that is said nightly for Meg in Hazelwood. Parking will be available in Scoil Brid beside St Patrick's Church.

**Planned Giving** - amount was €1670.79. Thanks to all who contributed through the standing orders and the Planned Giving. Thanks also to the collectors and counters.

**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.

**Parish Office hours** Mon - Fri -9am -1pm  
(Closed Wednesday)  
Contact Details: 01 6288827 / 0858662255 Sacristy: 6275942 Email: celbridgeparishoffice@gmail.com.  
Parish website: www.celstra.ie

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

**Mon 11th 10am:** Michael Wall, Larry Curran  
**Tue 12th 10am:** Michael, Kathleen, Michael Jnr. Anderson  
**Wed 13th 10am:** Deceased McHale family, special intention, special intention  
**Thur 14th 10am:** Nan Hosey, Mary & Tom Varley  
**Fri 15th 10am:** Marion O' Toole  
**Sat 16th 10am:** Leonie Nolan

#### PIZZA & POETRY

A poem by Joe McDonald in memory of his mother, Bridie, who died in 2013.

#### Last Supper

I did not know then  
Nor do I fully grasp now  
That it was our Last Supper  
As we broke bread, remembered,  
Gave thanks and gave out,  
Grumbling smiles, for all, each other,  
You and I, my lovely Mum.

Slower now, I saw you hobble  
Towards the stained glass  
Of our door,  
Nothing slow or pained  
In the bright smile,  
Warm hug.

Seeing the kitchen table bare,  
I moved to set it,  
No, you laughed, we are in the  
Dining Room this evening,  
'Sure it's Easter Sunday, son',

We dined like royalty  
That Resurrection Evening  
Unhurried, together.  
No, I did not know then, that,

Soon, very soon, you would  
Cease to hobble and begin  
To dance.....  
Did you...?

#### LEGION OF MARY

This week we remembered Frank Duff, Servant of God, the Founder of the Legion of Mary. In a Church that is going to be increasingly lay led, Frank remains a fine example of one who lived out his call to an exemplary degree. Over the coming weeks we will, in a little column of our newsletter, examine the role of the Legion of Mary in today's Church.

#### Weekend Mass Intentions

**St. Brigid's Church**  
**Saturday 6pm:**  
**Sunday 11am:** Robert Walsh, Joseph Bridget & Maria Walsh  
**St. Patrick's Church**  
**Sat: 6.30pm:** Frank Kelly (1st anniv), Rory Bruan  
**Sun: 8.30am:** Beenie Kennedy, Maura Carey  
**9.30am:** Maura Carey, Mary & Joe O' Donovan  
**11am** James Rubotham Snr, Rita Russell, Louise Fleming, Marie Agbom (1st anniv)  
**12.30pm:** Mairead McCready, Bridget Malloney, May Donovan, Eileen Murphy.  
**7pm:** Maura Carey, Patricia Lee



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

The next meeting of the parish mother's prayer group takes place on Tuesday 12th November at 8pm in St Brigid's Church, Straffan. Mothers of all ages are welcome. We will pray for all children. We hope to see you there!

#### DONAGHCUMPER GRAVEYARD COMMITTEE

Sincere thanks to all who very generously supported the Annual Collection for the Upkeep/ Maintenance of Donaghcumper Cemetery. It is very much appreciated.

Altar List of the Dead list and envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Please leave into the parish office, the sacristy, or the collection bags at weekend Masses.

Please do not leave in the safe's or Church for security reasons. Thank you.

#### Please Support our Weekly Parish Lotto

The profit from our Lotto goes to developing our Parish. The prize fund is now at €3400. 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: 15, 19, 9, 2. 2nd draw: 28, 27, 22, 7. 3 consolation prize winners: Patricia Murphy, Kathleen McIntyre, Nancy Walsh. 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 Mon afternoon. Envelopes must be submitted before 10.30am on Mondays

