



RONCALLI RANT 11

We are not far from one of my favourite times of year, the beautiful season of Advent with all its expectancy and joyful waiting. Before we get there we have the last few Sundays of the liturgical year including Christ the Universal King next week. However firstly we have the readings for this weekend. These readings, especially the Gospel, together with this weeks poem, The Good, by Brendan Kennelly shape this particular rant.

The readings at Mass in these days can indeed be very frightening with their hints of disaster and destruction. They point to terrible events. They herald end times. In the middle of these portents of the final days the sacred readings put a very sobering question to us: are we ready, how ready are we, in what ways are we ready? The suggestion is we need to be ready to be swept away. Not a very attractive thought. A reasonable question arises: where is God's love in all this?

However before we come to the question of God's love I think we should look at how we are preparing, or what are we preparing for. The people referred to in the Gospel seem to be continuing on regardless. For us as pilgrims on a journey it is appropriate to ask what are we preparing for or perhaps, what kind of future are we investing in?

Is my investment based on short term gain or am I a prudent saver? Indeed what am I investing in? We are all familiar with the little story about the three people who heard the world would end tomorrow at three o'clock and their varied reactions, from a mad frenzy to complete a 'to do list' to a very calm continuing on as presently going. I have in a previous rant spoken of the gap between these two, which is really the gap between our lives as we live them and our lives as we would like to live them, or is it how we ought to live them?

Kennelly's beautiful poem, The Good, is at least thought provoking in this regard. The Good are most themselves when they are vulnerable, they are inclined to praise, are hard to see and have an endearing acceptance. Reading this poem a few times I found myself asking not only how do I define the good and indeed to what degree do I measure up to being good?

The more I reflect on this question, the question of what constitutes being good, the less sure my conclusions are. This in fact may be a sign of progress. Certainly a key part of being good is accepting that I do not have all the answers, I do not have it all sorted out, that I need others and that others need me. We are in this together. Sisters and Brothers. I think another part of being good is trying to be as real as possible though not using this as an excuse to hurt others. I like Kennelly's notion that the good are 'inclined to praise'. In a world increasingly fearful and negative we need the positivity of the good. The Good are hopeful. Which brings me back to those dark readings and the shuddering notion of the end times.

Do we believe in a God that swats at us as a giant might swat at a gnat? Are we no more than pesky little insects? So are we going to be swept away in a tsunami or scooped up into the arms of a loving Father? Which do you really believe? The truth is we live our present life based on the answer to this question. It is the difference between living in fear and living in joy.

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 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

Monday 18th 10am: Pat Sexton, Bridget O' Halloran

Tuesday 19th 10am: Special Intention, Sheila O' Connor

Wednesday 20th 10am: Michael, Alice, Hannah & Margaret Cahill

Thursday 21th 10am: Julia Bobbett, Kathleen Boland

Friday 22nd 10am: Gerry Kenny, John Quinn

Saturday 23rd 10am: Larry Cullen, deceased members of the legion of Mary

Weekday Mass Intentions St. Brigid's Church

Thursday 21th 10am: Josephine Hearne

Friday 22nd 10am: Special intention

ALTAR LIST OF THE DEAD

Altar List of the Dead list and envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Please leave into the sacristy or collection bags at Mass

PIZZA & POETRY

The Good by Brendan Kennelly

The good are vulnerable
As any bird in flight,
They do not think of safety,
Are blind to possible extinction
And when most vulnerable
Are most themselves.
The good are real as the sun,
Are best perceived through clouds
Of casual corruption
That cannot kill the luminous sufficiency
That shines on city, sea and wilderness,
Fastidiously revealing
One man to another,
Who yet will not accept
Responsibilities of light.
The good incline to praise,
To have the knack of seeing that
The best is not destroyed
Although forever threatened.
The good go naked in all weathers,
And by their nakedness rebuke
The small protective sanities
That hide men from themselves.
The good are difficult to see
Though open, rare, destructible;
Always, they retain a kind of youth,
The vulnerable grace
Of any bird in flight,
Content to be itself,
Accomplished master and potential victim,
Accepting what the earth or sky intends.
I think that I know one or two
Among my friends.

Weekend Mass Intentions

St. Brigid's Church

Saturday 6pm: Special Intention

Sunday 11am: Peter Buckley, Willie Kane, Special intention

St. Patrick's Church

Sat: 6.30pm: Sheila O' Connor (m.m.), James Green, John, Anne & Ellen Conway, Pat Heary, Micheline Vaudrion

Sun: 8.30am: Mick & Nora Bolger, Deceased members of Bolger & Brady family

9.30am: Patrick Swayne, Kathleen Adams

11am: Sallyann Lotz, Jimmy & May Kirby, Mary Norris - Carroll

12.30pm: May Donovan, Hugh Leonard, Betty Murphy, Owen Murphy

7pm: Jenny Condell

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolic association of Catholics, founded by Frank Duff, who with the sanction of the Church, serves on a voluntary basis in about 170 countries. The first meeting of the Legion of Mary took place in Myra House, Francis Street, Dublin on September 7th 1921.

Planned Giving - amount was €997.18. Thanks to all who contributed through the standing orders and the Planned Giving.

Thanks also to the collectors and counters.

St. Joseph's Young Priest's Society meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month in the Sacristy of St. Patrick's Church at 7.30pm. They pray for Priest's and for more vocations to the Priesthood and assist financially for the education of Priests.

New members urgently needed.

Contact Margaret 087 6175970

Please Support our Weekly Parish Lotto

The profit from our Lotto goes to developing our Parish.

The prize fund is now at €3450

The lotto envelopes can be placed in the safe at the back of the Church in St. Patrick's & 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



Annual Christmas Fair will take place on the 23rd & 24th November in THE MILL Celbridge

On both the Saturday & Sunday features include: festive crafts, Jewellery and gifts.

Sunday Festive Family afternoon with Magic Martha, Bouncy Castle, face painting and of course Santa's Grotto