

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 13TH JUNE 2021

The Lord wants to reveal his glory by taking up our nothingness and our insignificance and turning it into something majestic by the pure force of his love.

MASSES

Vigil Saturdays 6p.m. Sundays: 9a.m. & 11a.m.

Working Holy Days: Vigil 6p.m. Holy Days 10a.m. & 7.30p.m.

Weekdays: Monday to Saturday 10 a.m.

Monsignor Gearóid Dullea P.P.

Tel: 429 2296

Emergency Mobile 087 – 239 5434

Parish Office: 429 4332

Email: parishoffice@ballinloughparishcork.ie

Web: www.ballinloughparishcork.ie

Webcam: www.churchservices.tv/ballinloughlourdes



A new livestreaming service for the church webcam has replaced the service provided by MCN Media. The new provider is Church Services TV. Please note the new access for the livestream from Ballinlough: www.churchservices.tv/ballinloughlourdes



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions will be heard on Saturdays at 10.30am and at 5.30pm in the room adjoining the sacristy.

Eleventh Sunday

When Jesus spoke to people, he spoke to them in a way and language that they understood. He spoke to them about the natural world that they lived in. He told them that the kingdom was like a woman baking bread. He spoke to them about farming and harvests. He talked about fishing, water, light, wine, vineyards, shepherds, sheep and all the things they saw and used in their ordinary daily lives. In the gospel this Sunday Jesus says that the Kingdom of God is like seeds being sowed; especially the mustard seed. The Kingdom of God does float down to us or miraculously or appear out of now where. It comes through the events of our ordinary daily lives and actions that we know so well.

Farming for a living or even growing seeds and plants in our small gardens can take a lot of hard work and requires a lot of faith. The ground is cleared

and prepared. The seeds are sown and then the long waiting and watching begins. And, as the farmer sleeps the seed begins to change and eventually the earth produces new plants and crops. Farmers only sow the seeds, they don't make them grow. But seeds have to be sown by us if we want crops to grow. Jesus is asking us to have the faith and patience of the farmer. We are called to plant the seeds of faith, hope, forgiveness, justice and peace as followers of Jesus. We are called to plant the 'seeds' of the gospel message that we each of us have, wherever and whenever we can. We need to believe and have faith that in God's own time, not ours, the seeds will become a fruitful harvest in and for God's Kingdom. These fruits will be seen in the quality of our daily lives. Jesus asks us to bear fruit, and fruit that will last.

In the second part of the gospel, Jesus goes further and uses the mustard seed as an example of the Kingdom of God. This is a tiny, almost impossible to see little seed. Yet, when it is sown, watered and cared for, it grows into the greatest of all trees where even the birds of the air will find shelter and protection.

What are we to make of this? Jesus is asking us to be careful that we do not dismiss even our smallest acts of love, kindness, forgiveness or compassion. Great things can happen because of our smallest and seemingly insignificant words or actions. Our small acts of kindness can make great difference to someone. We need to remember that what we say, do and how we treat each other can either tear a person down or build them up. We are all 'mustard seeds', each of us having within ourselves the ability to accomplish great things for God's Kingdom. The 'mustard seed' that Jesus calls us to be aware of is that 'divine spark' of God that we each have within us. This enables each of us to contribute to the living and spreading the good news of the gospel, no matter how small our efforts may seem. This 'mustard seed' faith tells us that even the smallest acts of compassion can spread further and wider than we could ever imagine or dream of.

Lough Derg 2021

Lough Derg regrets that it will not be possible in 2021 to reopen Station Island for the Traditional Three Day Pilgrimage or even for the autumn programme of Day Retreats. Lough Derg will again offer the opportunity to "Do Lough Derg from wherever you are" on 3rd – 5th July.

The outdoor Pilgrimage on the Lough Shore Pilgrim Path will also be available as the summer goes on. Further information from Lough Derg office 0(0353) 71 9861518 or www.loughderg.org

Legion of Mary – Young Adult Conference

Young Adult Conference (via zoom) on 12th June at 5.30pm

Petition for SAFE ROAD CROSSING at Our Lady of Lourdes NS

The Parents Association of Our Lady of Lourdes NS is asking the Chief Executive of Cork City Council to prioritise creating a safe crossing point at Our Lady of Lourdes National School at the junction of Bellair Estate and the Ballinlough Road.

To sign the petition, go to: <http://bit.ly/OLOLNSCrossing>