

A Huge Thank you to all who donated, attended or just wished us well for our auction yesterday. We thank each and



everyone one of you for the support.

Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated next Sunday, 22 October. Donations are collected at these worldwide Masses, and they go, in their entirety, to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young, or poor. Envelopes can be found at the church.

Story of the week- Taste the Apple

A well-respected scholar and avowed atheist was speak



ing at a large outdoor picnic. He spoke for two and a half hours attempting to prove that the resurrection of Jesus was false. He quoted scholar after scholar and book after book. He concluded that since there was no such thing as the historical resurrection, the religious tradition of the church was groundless emotional nonsense because it was based on a relationship with a risen Jesus, who never rose from the dead in any literal sense. He then asked if there were any questions.

After about 30 seconds, an old Priest stood up. "Sir, I have one question," he said as all eyes turned toward him. He reached into his sack lunch and pulled out an apple he had been eating. "My question is a simple question," he said before taking another bite of the apple. He continued, "I haven't read all the books you have, and I can't recite the Scriptures in the original Greek." He took a couple more bites of the apple and said, "I don't know a thing about Niebuhr and Heidegger."

He finished the apple and said, "All I wanna know is: this apple I just finished, was it tart or sweet?"

The speaker paused for a moment and answered in exemplary scholarly fashion, "I cannot possibly answer that question, for I haven't tasted your apple."

The white-haired Priest dropped the core of his apple into his crumpled paper bag and said calmly, "Neither have you tasted my God"

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him. If you have, rejoice in the hope of the resurrection that your faith in Him brings." - Psalm 34:8

Meditation

Christian Meditation Ireland are hosting a **Meditation Meet-Up** for all who are interested in Christian Meditation or in finding out more about it. It will take place in **Balally Parish Centre, Dublin D16 E032** on **Saturday, 21 October 2023** from **10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** with Guest Speaker **Dr Noel Keating**. See www.christianmeditation.ie

AUTUMN MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The issues discussed by bishops during their Autumn General Meeting included Welcoming Laudate Deum (Praise God) – new exhortation by Pope Francis; Budget 2024 measures should target poverty and income protection; Bishops express concern re passing of Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy & Reconciliation) Act 2023; Universal Synodal Assembly and Irish Synodal Pathway; Safeguarding Children; Prayers for Peace and bells to be rung on 11 November; Call to pray and display red for persecuted Christians on Red Wednesday, 22 November; Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly to celebrate televised Mass on RTÉ for World Mission Sunday on 22 October; (i) Year for Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood (ii) Jubilee of Consecrated Life; In Memoriam.



BOOK REVIEW

In the Blue by Erin Hourigan.



Recommended For: Ages 4-8

"My dad is as tall as the sky! And I'm his teeny-tiny sunspot." A vivacious little girl introduces readers to her dad. As the cover and illustrations quickly show though, there is something wrong. Colours are used to explain the transformation as pages shift from a joyful array of colors to a limited palette.

"Right now things for my dad aren't bright and yellow. They are deep, dark blue."

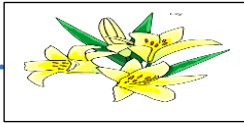
Simple text and continued colours trace emotions. Anger and frustration seep red across several pages. But then, slowly, hope returns and with it, greater understanding.

In the Blue is a gentle, loving acknowledgement of what it's like to be a child and love someone who is struggling with mental health. While some readers might take issue with a two-page spread of the little girl acting out, Hourigan is accurately portraying what second-hand trauma can do to a family. She captures the emotions of a child who doesn't understand and just knows something is very wrong. I particularly love the way she portrays the mother in this family: tired, worn, and worried, hugging and cuddling her little girl. This is a lovely book and a wonderful, gentle way to help a young child understand the effects of depression on a loved one. *In the Blue* won a Schneider Honor* for good reason. While it lovingly depicts a family, the little girl struggles with her father's assertion that "together, we can do anything." Still, the family's solution of loving each other, waiting together "in the blue" and seeking counselling will resonate with many readers. Hourigan writes from her own experience, growing up with a father who suffered from clinical depression. With depression and mental health on the rise, *In the Blue* is an excellent book to gently introduce a young reader to the fact that sometimes people are "blue."

Welcome to our celebration of the Eucharist.



This weekend's intentions –14th/15th Oct.



St. Mary's 6pm:
St Patrick's 10am: Barbara Sullivan (Rec Dec'd)
St Mary's 11am:
St. Mochohog's 10am George Kavanagh (RD)
Steven Quinn (MM) Rosalyn King (A),
Murth, Rose & Jimmy Davis (A),
Alec Perkins (A), Stephen Keating (A)
Next week's intentions 21st/22nd October
St. Mary's 11am – Paul Kennedy – Months Mind.

Just a thought



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"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows; it empties today of its strength."
- Corrie Ten Boom

Prayers Please...

For anyone experiencing Loneliness just now in our community



Synodal Reflections for Sunday 15th October



**Synod
2021
2024**

Isaiah 25:6-10 Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 Matthew 22: 1-14

Today's readings offer us more insight and wisdom of the call to synodality, which is currently being discerned at the Universal Synod in Rome.

In writing to the early church in Philippi, Paul reminds them, not only of his own situation, but of his call to 'servant leadership'. This service is modelled on that of Jesus himself, who came not to be served but to serve. In this way, Paul not only talks about the grace of God in Christ but illustrates the grace by his freely given, loving service. This grace allows him to take courage and strength that, with God, anything is possible and achievable.

All around we see this extraordinary grace and generosity: from Paul to the Philippians, from the Philippians to Paul and, to all, from God, the most lavish giver of all. We see the Holy Spirit here animating all the relationships. The working document, which is guiding the current Synod gathering in Rome, describes 'a synodal Church [as] open, welcoming and embraces all'. So, it would be wonderful to see such a spirit animate the assemblies in Rome — a spirit of generosity and grace, freedom and love.

Paul's 'servant' style of leadership encourages the members of that early church community to give freely and generously. This Christian way of living is often counter-cultural. The Synod Working Document also says, 'The radical call is, therefore, to build together, synodally, an attractive and grounded Church: an outgoing Church, in which all feel welcome'.

We hear this invitation echoed in the parable Jesus tells of the wedding feast (taking up the imagery from Isaiah). Those who are initially invited refuse to come. Many find excuses while some have a more violent reaction, making their response very clear. However, the King is not put off by this. The invitation is taken out, to the crossroads, to all – and receives a better response. As a synodal Church, walking together is an inclusive action. We are called to examine our own response to this call of synodality and to journey to the crossroads to call and invite. Yet our response must be one of active participation – we have to be ready like those who attended 'dressed in a wedding garment'.

It can be very easy to find a variety of excuses not to do this but, like Paul, we can trust that 'there is nothing we cannot master with the help of the One who gives us strength.'

Parish Lotto

Thank you so much to everyone who is supporting our fundraiser lotto. You are making a real difference. Some good news, everyone who has a ticket in our fundraiser lotto on Thursday 26th October will also automatically have a chance to win one of the great prizes below in a bonus national Halloween Draw by the service provider 'Our Fundraiser' which includes all organisations with a 'Fundraiser lotto'.

- **A €1,000 Kildare Village voucher.** *If you're not in you cant win!!!*
- **A Dyson Supersonic Hair Dryer**
- **A €250 Smyth's Toys voucher**

