

One day, a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family. On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.



The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden, and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden, and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches goes all the way up to our front gate, but they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on, and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.

Sacramental Families

Please keep an eye on your inboxes' over the next few weeks for some Advent ideas to try with the family at home!



Bonus national CHRISTMAS Giveaway 14th December

Weekly LOTTO Plus! Draw					
2 x VIP Tickets	TAYLOR SWIFT	€1,000 Shopping Spree	PlayStation 5, TV & Headset	10 x €100 JD Sports Gift Cards	5 x Luxury Christmas Hampers

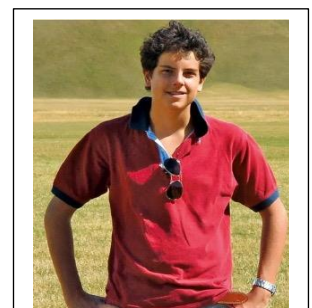
A Word from Pope Francis

Brothers and sisters, this is the crossroads we face with God: fear or trust. Either you are afraid before God, or you trust in the Lord. And we, like the protagonists of the parable – all of us – have received talents, all of us, far more precious than money. But much of how we invest them depends on our trust in the Lord, which frees our hearts, makes us active and creative in goodness. Do not forget this: trust frees, always; fear paralyzes. Remember: fear paralyzes, trust liberates. This also applies to the education of children. And let us ask ourselves: do I believe that God is the Father and entrusts gifts to me because He trusts me? And do I trust in Him to the point of putting myself on the line, even when the results are neither certain nor to be taken for granted? Am I able to say every day in prayer, "Lord, I trust in You, give me the strength to keep going; I trust in You, in the things You have given me: let me know how to carry them forward?"

Finally, also as Church: do we cultivate a climate of trust, of mutual esteem in our environments, that helps us to move forward together, that unlocks people and stimulates the creativity of love in everyone? Let us think about it. **POPE FRANCIS**

The visit of the relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis to the Archdiocese of Dublin Carlo was born in London to Italian parents, but grew up in Milan, Italy, where his family relocated when he was just a child. From a young age, he displayed an extraordinary devotion to his Catholic faith. He attended Mass daily, regularly receiving the sacraments. He was known for centering his life on the Eucharist. "Always to be united with Jesus," he would say, "this is my programme of life." Carlo set up a website documenting Eucharistic miracles, and is now considered a patron saint of the internet. On October 10, 2020, he was beatified by Pope Francis, becoming the first millennial to be declared 'Blessed' by the Catholic Church. It was said at the time that his beatification highlighted "the significance of his witness, particularly for the younger generation, demonstrating that holiness is attainable even in our modern world".

See the poster in the Porch for further details



PARISH LINK

NOVEMBER

25th/26th



We Remember... This weekend's intentions – 25th/26th Nov

St. Mary's 6pm: Kathleen Darcy (MM), Edward Tuite (A)
St Patrick's 10am:
St. Mochonog's 10am: Kathleen Bradshaw (A)
St Mary's 11am: First Holy Communion Engagement Mass.

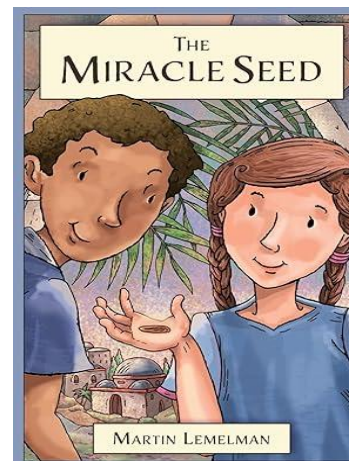
Mass Intentions 2nd/3rd December
St. Mary's 6pm: Kieran Darcy (5th A)
St Patrick's 10am:
St. Mochonog's 10am:
St Mary's 11am:

BOOK REVIEW. THE MIRACLE SEED. FOR YOUNG READERS 7-12yrs

The one last holdout was the mountain fortress of Masada, but that too was overrun in A.D. 74. The fortress was abandoned, leaving clothes, coins, weapons, and household items to be covered by 2000 years of dust and sand. Among the household items was a jar of date seeds—specifically, seeds of the Judean date tree, long prized for the sweetness and medicinal value of its fruit.

While the ruins of Masada slept, the Judean date tree was growing extinct. Whether by climate or war, the trees were cut or strangled or starved until, by A.D. 1000, there were none left. But fast-forward to 1964, when a team of archaeologists trekked up the narrow path to Masada and uncovered its long-lost treasures, including a jar of date seeds. Forty years later, two women—a medical researcher and a botanist, began to wonder if the Judean date tree could be resuscitated through one of those Masada seeds. After 2000 years? Highly unlikely. But it was worth a try . . .

The carefully researched and beautifully rendered book tells the story of the “ordinary miracle” of organic life. While making no direct reference to God and his creation, the text includes quotes from classical Judaism, the Psalms, and C. S. Lewis. It also underscores the outsized contributions Jews have made to science, medicine, and technology in the modern age. This is a story worth knowing, told in a readable and engaging graphic-novel format.



CROSSCARE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Crosscare exists to support people and families when they face difficult challenges in life and when they find it hard to get the help they need. Crosscare focuses on helping people when they need it most or when they can't find support anywhere else. You will find envelopes in the porch for donations.

Tel: 01 836 0011

Email: info@crosscare.ie



COMMUNITY PRAYER GATHERING

Out next gathering with St Patrick's Powerscourt will take place on **Wednesday 6th December, at 11 am in St Mary's.** This will be an **Advent service** and we would love to have as many along as possible. It will provide a prayerful opportunity, to prepare for Christmas before the stress of the season takes hold! All are welcome.



DOWNTIME THURSDAY



Why not pop into the church for some quiet time this coming Thursday 30th November from **7pm to 8 pm.** You can sit in silence with candlelight and gentle music. Take a few minutes for yourself and just “be”. Light a candle, say a prayer. Just sit if that's what you need. **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place beforehand.**

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 In our hectic, noisy world, the spiritual discipline of silence is becoming more and more difficult to exercise. To do so you would have to intentionally put yourself in a quiet place ... no speaking, no technology, no entertainment, no listening to voices of other people. That would be hard to accomplish these days, wouldn't it?

Even in the early mornings when I sit in the dark sipping my coffee, I am aware of noise: the clock ticking, the computer humming, the birds beginning to chirp, a cell phone letting me know a text has arrived. Times of stillness are so needed today.