



Mass Times

Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m.

Saturday 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.



Contact Details

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The Parish Office

Located at the side of the Parochial House.

Phone 01 5382542

Opening hours: 9:15 – 1:00pm
Monday to Friday

e-mail:

secretary@monkstownparish.ie

Comings and Goings

During the period of lockdown we said farewell to our sacristans Ian Counihan and Kieran Brown and we would like to say a big thank you to them for their dedicated service and support over the years. It was a pity that we did not get a chance, due to the restrictions, of saying a proper farewell but we would like them to know that we are grateful for all they have contributed to parish life.



In the midst of a global pandemic we welcomed a new sacristan Ciaran Ryan and although it has been a strange time to begin a new role he has settled in well. We welcome him as part of the parish team and wish him every blessing. I am sure that as you get to meet him in the coming months that you will make him welcome.

Last Weekends Collections



First Collection: € 830

In support of the priests of the parish

Share € 465

Diocesan Development fund

Parish Envelopes: € 485



St. Patrick's Parish, Monkstown

Sunday 19th July 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Website: www.monkstownparish.ie

IS GOD ASLEEP?

People have wondered over the centuries how it is that we call God almighty and powerful, yet things happen in our world that he seems powerless to do anything about. Leaving aside sickness and disease, slavery, Hitler and Stalin, drugs crime etc., what about 9/11, suicide bombers, political murders, continental famine, and global pandemics?



If we were God we'd surely be out there in the thick of it, sorting things out and making sure some people got their just deserts for what they've been up to. But God doesn't stir. It's as if he's asleep like the farmer in today's gospel.

Philosophers say that God does not intervene because this would interrupt the laws of nature. Theologians say that God has given us total freedom to behave in any way we choose and this free will would be contradicted if God kept treating us like puppets or robots. What matters, they say, is that we should be prepared to accept ultimate responsibility for our actions both sides of the grave.

The writer of the Book of Wisdom gives us a clue. In the face of evil God watches from afar, but he always steps in to offer people the gift of repentance. In other words, God is hoping that even the most sinister (and that of course includes us) will seize the chance of mending their ways. God is mild in judgement and governs with lenience, Wisdom says, and even after sin he holds out the olive branch if only the sinner is prepared to repent.

God's perspective is different from ours. The kingdom of God is still at the growing stage. He sees things over a lifetime and he judges in eternity's seconds. He is not a God who nips in the bud, but one who is always prepared to wait until the eleventh hour - just in case. At times this may seem frustrating to us when we would like some sort of dramatic intervention as God stoops to give someone their comeuppance. But there again, when he allows us to make slow progress in the hope that one day we might repent, then we're quite glad that he seems to be sleeping.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Anyone in need of assistance please call 8550022

Update on Works on Church Roof

Back at Christmas time (it seems a lifetime ago) we spoke of the need for remedial work to take place to repair the roof of our beautiful church and the probability that we would have to undertake fundraising in order to complete the necessary work.

COVID19 delayed the tender process for this work but the need to address the issues with the roof has not gone away. At the moment the Diocesan Buildings Committee are reviewing the tenders submitted at the end of May beginning of June and will give us their recommendations hopefully before August. At that stage we will know the cost of the work and how much we have to raise in order to carry it out. As previously stated the funds raised from the sale of the parish property on Richmond Avenue will go towards it but will be unlikely to cover the full amount. While we understand that this uncertain time is not the best of times to be undertaking fundraising we are also conscious of the fact that our roof may not see out another winter especially if we have a severe weather event as in previous years. So we feel we have no option but to plough ahead.



"and now a prayer for the Roof Fund."

As soon as we know the sums involved we will inform you and we would welcome any help that you can afford and any suggestions as to fundraising that you can offer. For details of

the work involved please see our parish website www.monkstownparish.ie and follow the link.

It is hoped that we can begin the work on a phased basis beginning with the upper roof and addressing the problems with the ironwork and slates. The other works being carried out when and if funds become available. We will endeavour to keep the church open during the work but because of site access the parish centre may not be available for use but this will be clarified closer to the time. Your patients and understanding as well as your support would be much appreciated.



"AND NOW CONCERNING THE SPECIAL COLLECTION..."



"The world's a better place when we all share what we have."



Weed it and reap

My wife and I were young and naïve when we bought our first house. We moved into it in early spring, and soon discovered that the woman who owned the house before us had been a wonderful gardener. Each new day of spring seemed to reveal another flower, plant, or shrub coming to life.

Luckily, the neighbours living on either side of our house were patient with us.



These elderly couples were themselves great gardeners and, after watching us mishandle the garden chores for a while, began to offer gentle advice and instruction. My favourite memory is the day Olga leaned over the fence and said with a kind smile, "You know, that tall plant you keep watering every day? That one's a weed." And not only was I feeding the weeds, I was also yanking plants that, if they had been left to grow, would have blossomed into brilliant flowers.

Today's gospel talks about weeds and wheat and how to handle them. We all need spiritual neighbours who have learned a thing or two about the weeds and the wheat and how they crop up in our lives. Listen to the people who know. Cultivate sources of wisdom in your life—the sacraments, good spiritual reading, daily prayer—and pay attention to them. Because life isn't just a bed of roses.

Reflection by Tom McGrath author of *Raising Faith Filled Kids*



Saturday 6:00 p.m.

Cyril McGann (RD)

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Keith Murphy (RD)

Helen O'Shaughnessy (RD)

Sunday 11:30 a.m.

Vera O'Leary (A)

Please pray for: Margaret Henihan (RD) Eoin O'Neill (RD)

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

17th Sunday
Ordinary Time
Year A



First Reading:

1 Kings 3:5,7-12 : Solomon pleases God when he asks for a wise and understanding heart to better govern the people.

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30 : God chose us to be conformed to the image of his Son.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of Heaven.