

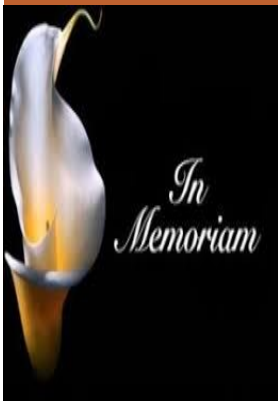


**St Mary's
Parish
Haddington
Road**

**Serving
the
Community**

**Serving
the Family**

Serving the City



Death Where Is Thy Sting

'He stopped crying and, his face turned towards the wall, he began to think. His spirit was obsessed by a single thought: 'Why? Why this dreadful reality?' But, whatever he did, he found no answer to his question. When the thought that he had not lived as he might have or should have, came to him, he simply banished it. He reminded himself of the genuine righteousness of his existence. Almost always, with his face turned to the wall, he suffered, alone, with his insoluble sufferings. He entered, alone, into his insoluble thoughts.

'What is this?', he asked himself. 'Is it death?'

And the voice inside him answered, 'Yes, it is death.'

Inconsolable, he asked, 'But why this suffering?'

The voice replied: 'It's like that, it has no purpose.'

(Leo Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, 1886)

Like all living beings, one day we shall all die. However, unlike other living beings, we are conscious of this fact. As the actor Woody Allen once put it: 'Since humans became aware of their own mortality, they have never really been relaxed.' We live with this overwhelming reality always in our minds. In order to try to be more relaxed, we often try not to think about it too much. We try to push it away, yet knowing it is there in all its grim inevitability.

Death, however, quite frequently grasps us by the arm, seeking our attention. It takes hold of us in one way or another; an acquaintance or some celebrity dies unexpectedly or in tragic circumstances, we stand at a graveside beside the coffin of a friend or close relative or, even more unsettling, we become aware of the fragility of our own bodily existence with the diagnosis of a serious illness. At times like this our illusions leave us and, as lightness and frivolity fade, we can no longer live as if our time is unlimited. The truth has always been that the time granted to us is indeed fixed and limited—in our genes, in our fate and, for the believer, in the mind of God. More unsettling perhaps, is the fact that it is uncertain. Who knows what tomorrow holds? (Mt 24:36)

Facing death and the fear that often accompanies it, we turn to our interior life for strength and hope to help us see the sense of it, to answer that big question. Without these inner resources our fear can influence us and take over our lives in a way that paralyses us. Scientific research reveals that when the fear of death takes over, the person can become increasingly materialistic, more egotistical and psychologically rigid. On the other hand, seeking the genuine lucidity to be realistic and serene about the idea of one's own passing brings with it a certain peace and equanimity in the face of an inevitability that is never really welcome.

The French philosopher Montaigne (1533-1592) wrote: 'Take away its strangeness, practice with it, grow accustomed to the idea of it, have nothing in mind as much as death.' And so, as best we can, we deal with these inevitable eruptions of the reality of death in our lives, reminders of our own mortality; death notices in the papers, the tolling of a church bell. So, we stand for a moment and allow these images, thoughts, memories around death be present and part of ourselves. At the same time, we remain mindful of our breathing, of the breath of life within us and around us. We go occasionally to a cemetery, as many do at this time of the year, taking memories of loved one still present in their way, to take a walk through the rows of headstones, to pause at a familiar name and to commune with 'those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith'.

In being attentive during these moments, as we are on these November days with their hints of death, we become aware of the intermingling of life and death in the world we live in. Listen to your breath, listen to the song of the birds, to the human footsteps crunching on the gravel of the cemetery path. This is a way of coming to terms with our natural anxiety in the face of inevitable.

The opposite of death is birth: we entered this life, we are going to leave it. The Japanese composer of haiku Natsume Soseki (1867-1916) writes:

Without knowing why

I love this world where we come

To die

St Paul, however, writes in deep faith to the Corinthians

O death where is your sting? O grave where is your victory? (1 Cor 15:55)

(Translated and adapted from Christophe André, 'La Mort' in *La Vie Intérieure*, France Culture 2017)

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Streaming and Website www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie email: info@stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie

Child Protection: <http://www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie/ministries/child-protection/> also www.csp.dublindiocese.ie

Streaming also at www.churchservices.tv/haddingtonroad

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Celebrating 50 Years of Service

*In Honour of
our much-loved sacristan
Joe Kelly and his wife Clare*
SPECIAL PARISH COFFEE MORNING
TODAY after 11am mass

Special Share Collection 10 & 11 November

In a recent letter to all parishes, Archbishop Martin writes:

I write concerning a further National Collection to help defray the costs of the recent World Meeting of Families and the visit of Pope Francis. The collection will take place in all churches in Ireland **over the weekend of 10 and 11 November**. In the Archdiocese of Dublin, this will replace the normal second collection for **Share**.

The overall cost to the Church in Ireland for hosting the World Meeting comes to €19.4m. To date €15.4m has been raised by way of local church collections and by other donations. This leaves us with a deficit of €4m

Pope Francis presided over wonderful events in Dublin and in Knock. We have much to be grateful for to the Holy Father. In Dublin, the main events were the Festival of Families in Croke Park and the Final Mass in Phoenix Park. In addition to the huge crowds who attended these events, over one million people watched them on television while so many gathered along the streets of Dublin to greet Pope Francis....

Over 11,000 people came to Ireland from overseas and the three days Pastoral Congress in the RDS was an encouraging event for many of our parish communities.

While I am acutely conscious of the many financial demands facing families and parishes at this time, all support offered would be greatly appreciated.

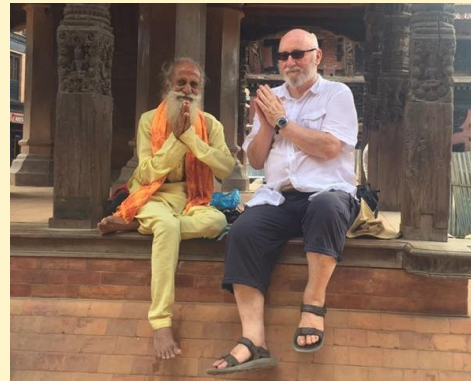
Yours very sincerely in the Lord

+Diarmuid Martin
Archbishop of Dublin

St. Mary's Autumn Diary

- November 17: Remembrance Day Mass, 10:00am
- November 19: Pastoral Council Meeting, 5:45pm
- November 30: Croatian Christmas Carol Concert
- December 15: Christmas Concert
- December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- December 9: St. Vincent de Paul Collection

FAITH CONVERSATIONS 2018 Special Evening



Faith Encounters

A PERSONAL JOURNEY
IN AFRICA AND ASIA
AN ILLUSTRATED TALK

PATRICK CLAFFEY

Masses and Confession

Sundays: Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm
Croatian Community Mass 6.30pm
Daily masses 10am and 12.40pm, Saturday 10am only
-Rosary daily after 10am mass

Adoration Blessed Sacrament, Weds 10.30-12.40

Church Collections

W/e 28th October 2018

1st Collection: €920

Share Collection: €691

Weekday collections: €460

In Memoriam

This weekend's intentions

6pm: Margaret, Thomas and Colm O'Reilly (Anniv)

11am: Deceased of Lardner and Mathews families.

Deceased parishioners of the past year.

5pm: Eddie Gribben RIP

Masses on 10th/11th November 2018

6pm: Niall Maloney (Anniversary)

11am: Patrick Mc Evilly (Mths mind)

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