



Differences

Joan Chittister

Of all things unacceptable to the human psyche, the notion of difference may well be among the most threatening. We learn sameness very early in life and find it hard to stray too far from its boundaries.

Sameness becomes a kind of security blanket that wraps us up in the warm feeling of being acceptable to people we know. If we don't stand out, we can't be criticized. To be socially acceptable we have allowed ourselves to become socially invisible.

It is an effective technique, a kind of chameleon approach to life, but it is not really healthy.

Somewhere along the line we must become who we are meant to be as individuals. We are persons put on earth to contribute to it as well as take from it. Most of all, we must allow others to do the same, as much for our sake as for theirs. It is in the development of our differences that we thrive. It is in our respect for the differences of others that we grow.

Differences not only teach us new ways of doing things; they also make us ask new questions of ourselves about what is really important in life, what really must have priority, and what is true happiness, success, and unity.

Differences are a challenge to our small assumptions about the way the world really goes together. An Irish world, a white world, a male world, a Western world are all simply small slices of reality attempting to be the whole. Only respect for the Muslim veil, the Chinese smile, the African tribe, the South American campesino can stretch us beyond ourselves, beyond a political imperialism that sets out to corrupt whole peoples in the name of globalization and, in the end, deprives us of the richness of the world community.

But that is the glorious burden of real Christianity: to follow the one who talked to Samaritan women and Roman soldiers, all the time allowing them to be who they were. Differences were made to be respected, to be honoured, to be cherished....

The truth is that it is only when we try to think from the view of another that we find out what we ourselves really think. It is the sparks set off in us by the minds of those around us that fire our own. It is then that we become a real self. We become separate and connected at the same time. To speak another truth, our own truth, our uniquely defined truth, however finished, however settled, is to confirm

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Division of opinion is, when we embrace it openly, what invigor-

ates thinking. It is the ground of new beginnings, the foundation of new respect for the other.

Creativity, it is too often forgotten, comes out of differences. It is the ability to function outside the lines, beyond the dots, despite the boxes and the mental chains by which we have forever been constrained, that fits us to be the architects of the future. Instead, we want everyone to think alike when what we really need are people who are thinking newly – about theology, about God, about faith, about morality, about science, about life. "You won't find this year's birds in last year's nests," the proverb teaches, but we so easily miss the meaning of it entirely. Life is meant for moving on, the observation implies....

Being able to think differently from those around us and being able to function lovingly with people who think otherwise is the ultimate in human endeavour. It requires three things: a heart large enough to deal with conflict positively, enduringly, and kindly; a keen sense of personal purpose, the notion that there is something on the horizon that is worth debating; and a soul sensitive enough to transcend the tensions of the immediate for the sake of the quality of the future.

St Mary's
Parish
Haddington
Road

Serving
the
Community

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

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Funded by Living the Joy of the Gospel Campaign



Croatian Christmas Concert

At the invitation of the Croatian Ambassador Mr Ivan Mašina. The concert will feature the *a capella* vocal group Sagena from Zagreb (Croatia) and Croatian Folklore Society Dukat from Dublin.

Klapa music is a form of traditional a cappella singing. The word klapa translates as "a group of friends" and traces its roots to church singing. It celebrates love, wine, country and sea. The main elements of the music are harmony and melody, with rhythm very rarely being very important. In 2012 klapa was inscribed in UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Friday, November 30th, 2018 at 7 p. m.

followed by a reception at the Community Centre

Share Sunday

This Sunday November 25th is Share Sunday. Share, the second collection, is an important funding lifeline for the many services that support the pastoral outreach of the diocese as well as providing support for poorer parishes. The Share newsletter is being distributed with information on the income of Share and how it is utilised. The financial statements of the Archdiocese and the Annual Diocesan report will also be made available on line on Sunday. Your support for the promotion of the work Share is appreciated. Archbishop Martin has said in his letter to parishes that he is "very much aware of the many financial calls that have been made within the Catholic Church in recent times and I am genuinely grateful for the generous response that has come, especially from Mass-going Catholics.



Archbishop Martin is once again seeking support for a Parish Food Appeal next weekend **December 1st** to support the work of the Crosscare Foodbanks.

The generosity of parishioners in last year's food appeal meant that 10,000 emergency hampers were distributed to those most in need before Christmas. Crosscare work with many individuals and families throughout the Archdiocese who are struggling to make ends meet. The Food Banks provide support with essential food and household items.

This year Crosscare are asking that collections **be held on one weekend only on Sunday December 1st**. This will allow them

Indian Cultural Night:

Our Lady Help of Christian's Parish Hall, Navan Road, Friday 30 November, All are welcome
Music, Dance and Indian Food.

Free Entry – donations in aid of Kerala Flood Relief.

Walk of Light 2018

"Encounter- Engage – Empower"

Join us on an ecumenical inter-church journey from St. Ann's Church, Dawson St., on to St. Teresa's, Clarendon Street and ending at Adelaide Rd. Presbyterian Church.

Our pilgrimage on Sunday, 25 November from 4:00pm until 6:30pm, if even for part of the journey, welcoming Christ who enlightens our darkness.

Very Reverend Bernard (Barney) Brady RIP

The death has taken place of Very Reverend Bernard (Barney) Brady, who was Parish Priest of St. Mary's, Haddington Road 1994– until his retirement in 2003.

Fr Brady was born in 1927 in Loughduff, Co. Cavan. After studies in Clonliffe and Maynooth, he was ordained by Abp. John C. McQuaid in June 1953.

He served in several ministries and parishes in the archdiocese including Sandymount, Merrion, St Vincent's Hospital, Crumlin, Marino, Blakestown, Huntstown and Greystones before coming to Haddington Road in 1994. He is still remembered with affection by many older parishioners. His funeral took place in St. Mary's on Saturday.

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 18th November 2018

1st Collection: €1,070

Share Collection: €1,120

Weekday collections: €431

THANK YOU

In Memoriam

This weekend's intentions

6pm: Michael Short, Anniversary

Masses on 1st /2nd December 2018

5pm: Seamus Daly (Anniversary)

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