



## Fishermen's Friend: Finding God on the Water at Dawn

*Johann Christoph Arnold*

**I have always enjoyed fishing.** Now, with my children grown and my grandchildren old enough to come with me, I go fishing as often as I can get away. Mostly we just sit in the boat for hours and catch nothing. But those hours of quiet are valuable for thinking. I have pondered how the first disciples Jesus called were fishermen, and how they were obedient when Jesus said, "Leave your nets and come, follow me." And how after the crucifixion the disciples, in their discouragement, returned to the solitude of their fishing boats.

Fishing, like prayer, can bring peace of heart and give time for personal reflection. Like prayer, it can be disheartening – sometimes the catch will be small, or there will be nothing but a few bites. Both fishing and prayer require patience and humility, because with both, you ultimately depend on an answer from outside yourself.

A conversation involves both talking and listening, and as we all know, real listening requires us to become quiet first. What God wants to tell us is of greater importance than what we want to tell him.

As much as the physical body requires rest and sleep in order to function properly, so our inner life requires regular times of quiet in which the soul can be strengthened again: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak..."

This is true for everybody, but "a time to keep silence" may be most important for people who are actively involved in a cause or service. They will find that strength for their work comes first from the inner springs of their personal spiritual life, and that inner quiet is essential to balancing the busyness of their days.

Life seems like a long string of events, planned or unplanned, joyful or sorrowful. As significant as each one appears to be when we stand in its midst, it can often be a distraction that draws our attention away from the larger picture. If we are to communicate with God, we must first become inwardly quiet, detached from our roving thoughts, our worries and fears for tomorrow.

Just as life demands both thought and action, so there must also be a balance between solitude and community. Outward silence is easily achieved when one is alone, though mind and heart may still be busy; but in true solitude one can often come before God in a way not possible when there is even one other person present.

**Many people**, disenchanted with institutional religion, go outdoors into nature to satisfy their spiritual needs. There is great inner strength given through the beauty of unspoiled creation. As John Michael Talbot writes, "All creation bears the traces of its creator and will lead the spiritually sensitive seeker back to God."

*From Cries of the Heart: Stories of Struggle and Hope*



**St Mary's  
Parish  
Haddington  
Road**

**Serving  
the  
Community**

**Serving  
the  
Family**

**Serving  
the  
City**



In May, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI formally declared 12th century Benedictine nun **Hildegard of Bingen** a canonized saint. She was canonized the following October. He regards her as one of the great thinkers who has helped shape the thought of the Catholic Church.

As a writer, composer, philosopher, Christian mystic, Benedictine abbess, healer, artist, feminist, and student of science, Hildegard was a pioneer in many fields in her day. For many centuries after her death Hildegard was ignored or even ridiculed but today is finally being recognized for her immense contribution to so many areas, including our understanding of our spiritual relationship to the earth—a contribution that touches on key issues faced by our planet in the 21st century, particularly with regard to the environment and ecology. Some thoughts from this great saint:

"The Word is living, being, spirit, all verdant greening, all creativity. This Word manifests itself in every creature."

"God is the good and all things which proceed from him are good."

"Holy persons draw to themselves all that is earthly. . . .

The earth is at the same time mother,  
She is mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human.  
She is the mother of all, for contained in her  
are the seeds of all."

"The fire has its flame and praises God.

The wind blows the flame and praises God.

In the voice we hear the word which praises God.

And the word, when heard, praises God.

So all of creation is a song of praise to God."

"Now in the people that were meant to be green there is no more life of any kind. There is only shriveled barrenness. The winds are burdened by the utterly awful stink of evil, selfish goings-on. Thunderstorms menace. The air belches out the filthy uncleanness of the peoples. The earth should not be injured! The earth must not be destroyed!"

"Divinity is aimed at humanity."

"Mary, ground of all being, Greetings!

Greetings to you, lovely and loving Mother!"

"Humankind, full of all creative possibilities, is God's work. Humankind alone is called to assist God. Humankind is called to co-create. With nature's help, humankind can set into creation all that is necessary and life-sustaining."

# Liturgy.Life

bring liturgy to life  
and life to liturgy

## National Centre for Liturgy, St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

As preparations for the next academic year are underway in St Patrick's College, Maynooth, the National Centre for Liturgy is offering to parishes the opportunity of taking up one or two or all of its Liturgy Modules this coming semester – September-December. We successfully ran such modules last year with participants from many parishes taking part. The attached PDF Brochure outlines the four modules. The course will begin on Tuesday, 24 September 2019.

If you have any further query please do not hesitate to contact me on email [Moira.Bergin@spcm.ie](mailto:Moira.Bergin@spcm.ie) or mobile 087-2401708. As the holiday season begins it is more convenient to contact by email or mobile.

### In Memoriam

#### Masses on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> July 2019

6pm: Patsy and Michael Gaffney  
(Months Mind for Patsy Gaffney)  
11am: Margie Bowe (Months Mind)

#### Masses on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> July 2019

6pm: Jacinta Shortt (Anniversary)

### 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**

### Last Week's Collections

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: €950  
Share Collection: €695  
Weekday collections: €400.

**THANK YOU**