



St Mary's
Parish
Haddington
Road

Serving
the
Community

Serving
the
Family

Serving
the
City

LIVE THE FAITH YOU PROFESS

Br. Silas Henderson, SDS

We have all been taught, and rightly so, that God is love. We see Jesus as a gentle shepherd, a kind and selfless teacher, who makes space for children, even as he reaches out to the sick and poor. And these images and themes are certainly major elements of Luke's Gospel, which we are hearing in this liturgical year. However, the passage proclaimed on the 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time presents a different — perhaps even startling — facet of Jesus' teachings. The Prince of Peace asks, "Do you think that I have come to establish peace on earth?" Of course, because that's what we've been taught to expect. That is our hope.

In a sense, the passages from Luke's Gospel that we are hearing in these weeks could be folded into the great Wisdom tradition of the Old Testament. We are no longer hearing stories of Jesus' signs and wonders, those moments of revelation that helped those first followers to understand who he is. Rather, now, we are being invited to reflect on how we are to follow this Master Teacher in whom we have come to believe. These Gospel passages invite us to reflect on prayer, works of charity and justice, and the attitudes that should be the hallmark of the followers of Jesus.

Like the earlier Wisdom teachings, these readings are leading us to consider the demands and consequences of an enacted faith. Because at the end of the day, our call to discipleship requires more than simply learning the stories of Jesus and being able to parrot back his teachings. Rather, Divine Wisdom calls us to live what we profess, guided by our faith convictions.

With this Wisdom perspective in mind, we recognize that what Jesus is asking us to reflect on is the prophetic stance that is part of discipleship. However, as we see in the story of Jeremiah proclaimed in the first reading this Sunday, that prophetic stance can put us at odds with those who are opposed to the truth. This was certainly true for Jesus as well.

In a commentary on this Sunday's Gospel, Sister Barbara Reid, O.P., wrote,

"Jesus speaks of the same kind of divided reaction that his ministry provokes. As he ignites in his followers a vision of justice, peace, and well-being for all that could blaze forth, some readily welcome it. Others resist mightily. The resisters are not eager for the burning away of their comforts and privileges as Jesus' way of transformation demands ... It is easy to resist the version of a prophet that insists on transformative change. Better to get rid of such an unwelcome messenger and continue on undisturbed.

And it is here that we discover the two-fold challenge of this Sunday's Gospel.

First, do we ignore or try to silence those prophets who are calling for change — change within ourselves, our communities, or even in the Church? Are we willing to risk dialogue and even conversion as we are invited to reflect not only on what is possible, but on what might be essential? This can become especially difficult for us when we are being asked to reconsider beliefs, customs, or practices that are near and dear to us. However, discipleship demands that we do not become complacent or settle for the status quo, particularly when we consider the Gospel's call for justice and the upbuilding of the reign of God.

Second, are we willing to live out our call to be prophets ourselves? Where are the injustices or abuses that need to be named? What wrongs need to be made right? What wounds need to be healed? While we are called to pray for peace, we are also called, by virtue of our baptism, to adopt a prophetic stance and call for change — for conversion — where change is needed. This also means that we have to be courageous enough to stand alone at times.

The way toward the peace called for in the Gospel is not an easy one, because injustice does not die easily. As we continue our journey through Ordinary Time, reflecting on the demands of our discipleship and what it means to truly live the faith we profess, we pray for the gifts of courage, discernment, and fortitude to fulfil the mission that has been entrusted to us by Jesus.

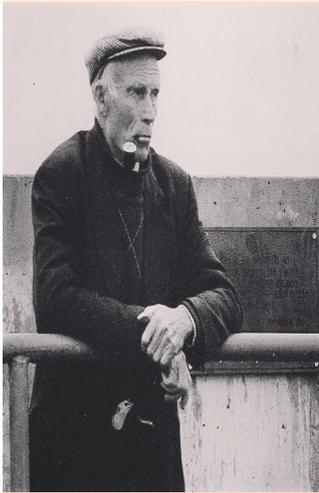
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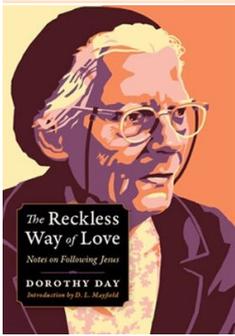
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“One cannot live the afternoon of life according to the program of life’s morning; for what was great in the morning will be of little importance in the evening, and what in the morning was true will at evening have become a lie.”

Carl Jung, *The Structure and Dynamics of the Psyche*



A Reckless Way of Love

Dorothy Day was an American journalist and founder of the Catholic Worker movement. Day devoted her life to defending the downtrodden and serving Christ by serving the poor.

In this guidebook Dorothy Day offers hard-earned wisdom and practical

advice gained through decades of seeking to know Jesus and to follow his example and teachings in her own life.

This book focuses on a more personal dimension of her life: Where did she receive strength to stay true to her God-given calling despite her own doubts and inadequacies and the demands of an activist life? What was the unquenchable wellspring of her deep faith and her love for humanity?

Saints are not like the rest of us, but the Dorothy Day in these pages is. Her reflections leave one wondering whether what made her so fascinating was that she took the simple teaching of her faith at face value and to heart.

“I do not need to retire to my room to pray,’ [Day] writes. ‘It is enough to get out and walk in the wilderness of the streets.’ Walking in the wilderness of the streets is something I can do, situated as I am in a city where need and injustice abounds. Day was no saint: she was ‘an ordinary person simply trying to walk the road of following Christ’. This is precisely why her reflections on following Jesus are worthy of study.

Plough Publishing House, Walden, New York

A Very Enjoyable and Successful Event



District 133
IRELAND

Thanks to the Ballsbridge Lions Club for a very enjoyable and successful BBQ Event, held on 9 August in the Bishop’s Garden here at St Mary’s.

The event was held to support the equipping of the new St Christopher’s Primary School, which will open at the end of this month following completion of the wonderful new building.

The funds raised will be used to supply materials and equipment not covered by the Department Education funding but which are essential for a well-equipped modern school.

The staff and students, as well as the parish, are very grateful to the organisers of the event which took and an enormous amount of work. The event was impec-



A New Chaplaincy at St Mary’s

From Sunday 8 September, our parish will become the home for the chaplaincy of the French-speaking community in Dublin. They will join the Ethio-

pian and Croatian communities who have already found their home here and have added much to the dynamism of our parish.

The French-speaking community masses will be held twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, and all are, of course, welcome. *Soyez les bienvenus*

IN MEMORIAM

9.30am, Peter Coyne (Anniversary)

Eamonn O’Coine (A/V)

11am< Annie and Christy McCabe (Anniversary)

Masses on 17th/18th August 2019

11am: Patrick Mc Evilly (1st 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

1st Collection: €970

Share Collection: €640

Weekday collections: €370.

THANK YOU

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