



Motivated by Love

There is a helpful rule of thumb for managing our spending: “Mind the pennies, and the euros will take care of themselves.” In other words, if we are careful with our smaller purchases, we will have money in hand for big ticket items or emergencies.

However, it’s easy for us to do just the opposite. We see something we’d like to have and tell ourselves, “It’s only five euros I can afford that.” Then we see something else and something else. Before we realize it, our wallets are empty. The purchases which seemed small and insignificant at the time turned out to be very expensive indeed when added all together.

The same principle is true in our spiritual lives. Jesus puts it this way in this Sunday’s gospel: “The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones.” In other words, if we make good choices in the small details of our daily lives, it will add up to a good and holy life. On the other hand, if we fail to do good when we have the opportunity, or if we make bad choices because the sins we commit seem small and insignificant, it will add up to a sinful life. Like those small purchases that turn out to be very costly, those sins which seem insignificant can have a deep, corrupting influence on our consciences and souls in the long run.

The good news is that just as cutting corners can get us into a rut, small steps in the right direction can get us out. It is not always necessary to make big changes in our lives to get ourselves back on the path to reconciliation with God. We can fundamentally redirect our course by committing ourselves to making good choices every day. It could be as simple as making time to call a friend who is struggling or going out of our way to give money to a panhandler. It could mean getting up a little earlier to spend time in prayer. These are small gestures that don’t always require much time or effort. But they can go a long way toward training us to be more concerned with others and more aware of God’s presence and action in our lives.

A good example of this spiritual principle is the “little way” of St. Therese of Lisieux. She teaches us that no talent or gift is as pleasing to God as the ability to love. Like holiness, love is the universal calling of the Christian. When done with love, the smallest works become great in the eyes of God.

During election campaigns we will hear a lot about what is wrong with our country and how to fix it. The candidates will lay out grand schemes and make lavish promises. However, if things are to change, it will take ordinary people making small choices every day to move things in the right direction. It will require each of us using less of our planet’s resources. It will mean being kind and compassionate with each person we meet. If we were all to commit to daily acts of charity, no matter how small, it would likely benefit our country more than any government programme.

Douglas Sousa, S.T.L.

**St Mary’s
Parish
Haddington
Road**

***Serving
the
Community***

***Serving
the
Family***

***Serving
the
City***

Diocesan Safeguarding Day

Sunday 22 September, 2019

I wish to take this opportunity to address you on this vital matter and to thank you for all of the work you have been doing to make the Church in Dublin a safer place for children and for vulnerable adults.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the publication of the Murphy report and we are reminded of that dark and pain-filled chapter in our history. For many of those who were abused as children in the Church and for many of their loved ones that pain is a constant reality, one which will endure for the rest of their lives. We cannot undo the past. We can, however, honour the courage of those who have spoken of their experiences of abuse by doing all in our power to ensure a better and safer Church for the children of today and of tomorrow. As Pope Francis has instructed us in his recent Apostolic Letter, *Vos Estis Lux Mundi* we have an equal responsibility for the welfare and protection of vulnerable adults.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude all the work that has been done in our parishes to make the Church a safer place for children and vulnerable adults. Our parish clergy, already under pressure due to declining numbers, have had to accept additional responsibilities in this area, such as ensuring that those involved in public ministry are vetted. I wish to thank them all for this. I wish to thank also the hundreds of parish safeguarding representatives and the thousands who have attended safeguarding training. I wish to thank all of our parishioners who have kept faith with us through this difficult time. I do not underestimate the dilemma of parents who want their children to grow strong in the faith but hesitate about allowing their children to become involved in parish activities. I say to you: your children are dear to us, as they are to you, and we will do all in our power to ensure their safety and protection from abuse.

Since the publication of the Murphy Report there has been a decline in the number of child abuse allegations coming to the attention of the diocesan Child Safeguarding and Protection Service. However, a decline does not mean that such allegations

have ceased, only that there are fewer of them. There are no grounds for complacency. It is important that we remain committed to this vital work.

I ask you also to remember those who were abused and to pray for them.

+ **Diarmuid Martin**

Archbishop of Dublin



THOUGHT FOR A DAY

Don't let yourself forget that God's grace rewards not only those who never slip, but also those who bend and fall. So sing! The song of rejoicing softens hard hearts. It makes tears of godly sorrow flow from them. Singing summons the Holy Spirit. Happy praises offered in simplicity and love lead the faithful to complete harmony, without discord. Don't stop singing.

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

IN MEMORIAM

6pm: Audrey Boyd and
Desmond Moloney (Anniversary)

Masses on 28th/29th Sept 2019

11am: Theresa Mullery-Gray (Anniversary)

Masses and Confession

Sundays: Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm

Croatian Community Mass 6.30pm

Messe en français 12.30 (2^e et 4^e dimanche du mois)

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: €1,140

Share Collection: €720

Weekday collections: €280

THANK YOU

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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

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