



## Walk Tall in the Light of Christ

Few things hold us back more than our excuses.

We have excuses for not praying, for not attending Mass, and for not following the Church's teachings. We have excuses for not giving something up for Lent, for not reading the Bible, and for not spending time with our families. All the while, we miss out on what God has to offer us. So many gifts of peace and joy are lost because we are too busy making excuses, rather than taking the risk of following the path Jesus calls us to.

The story of Zacchaeus has much to teach us about all the blessings that can come our way once we put our excuses aside and take a risk for Jesus. Zacchaeus had plenty of excuses why he shouldn't try to get a look at Jesus.

First of all, he was short. The crowd was so tightly packed that he couldn't have hoped to see Jesus over their shoulders and heads. The children had the benefit of sitting on their fathers' shoulders to get a look at Jesus. But no one was about to help Zacchaeus. We can just imagine him getting on the tips of his toes and jumping up and down to see over the people gathered along the side of the road.

Secondly, Zacchaeus was not only a small man physically, but he was also a small man spiritually. Though his name means "righteous one," he was far from being a just man. He had accumulated his riches by extorting more taxes than the empire required. And the taxes he gathered helped ensure that the Roman Empire could tighten its grip on the people. Zacchaeus must have feared that a sinner such as himself would be brushed aside, ignored, or even scolded openly by the truly Righteous One, Jesus.

Thirdly, because of his position in the empire, Zacchaeus was small in the eyes of the crowd. No one was about to help him. Even if Jesus were to acknowledge him, the crowd would certainly denounce him for his crimes against them. Zacchaeus had reason to fear the ridicule of the crowd and, being a small man, might even have feared that they would attack him physically.

With so much against him, Zacchaeus could have decided that it was no use. However, instead of hanging his head and going home, Zacchaeus knew he would have to take an extreme measure to get a look at Jesus. He took the risk of climbing the sycamore tree, and it got Jesus' attention. He was rewarded because his love for Jesus overcame his fear.

Faith requires overcoming obstacles and facing challenges to bring our values into reality. For every shameful experience, for every crowd that denounces us, for everything standing in our way, there is a grace compelling us to do whatever it takes to overcome it. Once we brush our excuses aside, we can grasp what Jesus is offering.

What excuses are holding us back? What are we afraid of? What challenges and obstacles stand in our way? Jesus is offering us the grace to overcome them if we put our trust in him and take the risk of seeking him out no matter what the crowd may think of it. When we do, we will find that he knows us by name, that he calls us to a banquet of love, and that we can have a loving relationship with him no matter our sins and failings.

*Douglas Sousa, S.T.L.C*

Source: <https://www.4lpi.com>

**St Mary's  
Parish  
Haddington  
Road**

**Serving  
the  
Community**

**Serving  
the  
Family**

**Serving  
the  
City**



## Remembrance Day Mass

for the deceased commemorated on our

Great War Memorial:

Saturday 9 November: 10:00am

### CHORAL CONCERT

## Dublin Choral Foundation

presents

# REMEMBRANCE CONCERT



A Special Evening of Music & Poetry

Saturday, November 9th 2019

7.30pm - 9.00pm

## St Mary's Church

Haddington Road,  
Dublin 4

featuring

# lasus



directed by  
Dr Ite O'Donovan

Poetry readings by  
Dawn Bradfield  
Mark O'Regan

Tickets  
€15, €10 (concessions)  
€5 (students)

from  
[www.dublinchoralfoundation.ie](http://www.dublinchoralfoundation.ie)  
and at the door.



Remembering those who died  
in the Great War 1914-1919.



Hosted by St Mary's Church

Presented by Dublin Choral Foundation

## Extraordinary Month of Mission (EMM2019).

It's 100 years since Pope Benedict XV's encyclical **Maximum Illud** called Catholics to bring the Good News to all peoples (**Missio Ad Gentes**).

To commemorate its anniversary, Pope Francis has declared October 2019 to be an Extraordinary Month of Mission (EMM2019).

This special month of prayer and action calls us all to renew our missionary commitment by sharing the Good News of Jesus with all people!

Our colleagues in **World Missions Ireland** have prepared a range of fantastic resources to help us journey through the month of Mission.

They are all available on their website <https://www.wmi.ie/emm>

## THOUGHTS FOR A DAY

It is customary to blame secular science and anti-religious philosophy for the eclipse of religion in modern society. It would be more honest to blame religion for its own defeats. Religion declined not because it was refuted, but because it became irrelevant, dull, oppressive, insipid. When faith is completely replaced by creed, worship by discipline, love by habit; when the crisis of today is ignored because of the splendour of the past; when faith becomes an heirloom rather than a living fountain; when religion speaks only in the name of authority rather than with the voice of compassion – its message becomes meaningless.

-Abraham Joshua Heschel, *God in Search of Man: A Philosophy of Judaism*

Being an artist means: not numbering and counting, but ripening, like a tree which doesn't force its sap, and stands confidently in the storms of spring, not afraid that afterward summer may not come. It does come. But it comes only to those who are patient, who are there as if eternity lay before them, so unconcernedly silent and vast. I learn it every day of my life, learn it with pain I am grateful for: patience is everything!

- Maria Rainer Rilke *Letters to a Young Poet*

## IN MEMORIAM

6pm: Kevin and Pat Kelleher (Anniversary)

9.30: Edward Dempsey, Mary McInerney, Peter Dowley  
Anniversary

5pm: Cathal Daly

Weekend of 9/10 November

Margaret, Thomas & Colm O'Reilly (Anniversary)

9.30 Emer Leonard

11am: Gerard Lardner

Paddy and Patricia Matthew

Anniversary

## Masses and Confession

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

Croatian Community Mass 6.30pm

Messe en français 12.30 (2<sup>e</sup> et 4<sup>e</sup> 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** Not available at time of going to print

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Streaming and Website [www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie](http://www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie) email: [info@stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie](mailto:info@stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie)

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

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