

Big THINGS IN SMALL PACKAGES

“Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and clamorous discord.” These words, uttered by the prophet Habakkuk, are as relevant today as they were the day they were first penned. It almost seems that every day we are exposed to another act of violence or display of discord in our world, nation, and even our Church. We are becoming increasingly polarized and find it more and more challenging to live on common ground. “How long, O Lord? I cry for help but you do not listen!”

As people of faith, we mistakenly believe that if we pound the door of heaven long and hard enough, God will produce some tangible results. Whether this takes the form of using His strong arm to counter violence with peace, bring wisdom to the minds of the perpetrators, mete out some measure of justice, or simply end the world once and for all, it doesn't matter. We want to see results! After all, doesn't it make sense that if I work hard enough

to merit some kind of Divine favor that I should get something in return? This may make some sense through human eyes, but not God's.

God tells us to wait. The vision will surely come. Wait. We don't like to hear that. If we are looking for more dramatic results, we can easily find ourselves getting discouraged. We may even find ourselves asking, “If God is not going to do more about this mess we are in, then what's the point?” We lose faith. Waiting is difficult as it requires patient endurance without substantial immediate gratification. We tend to think that we are more profitable in God's eyes if we go above and beyond in our relationship with Him. But, it doesn't work quite like that.

Humanity has caused its own mess. Yet, we want God to fix it. This line of thinking misplaces responsibility. Wanting God to be the “cleanup guy” is just a form of cowardice because we are afraid or unwilling to do the job ourselves. So, if God is not the One who is responsible for straightening things out, where does that leave us in terms of faith?

“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.” The request the disciples made of Jesus ought to be on our lips each day. “Increase our faith.” While the dynamics of human life are complex and difficult to resolve, the matter of faith is really quite simple. All one really needs to do is ask one very basic question about him or herself. Do I believe that I am intentionally here because of a loving God who carefully fashioned and formed every element of my being into the incredible gifted person I find myself to be? If the answer is no, there is no need to read any further. If the answer is yes, then you possess the faith the size of a mustard seed and incredible things await you!

We cannot just sit in our rooms and expect God to deal with what is going on outside our windows. We have to go out the door and chip away at it ourselves. We have the faith to do so. What we are asked to do in prayer is to create space so that God can do His work in calling us back to Him and reminding us of who we are. That is why the Our Father is such a perfect prayer. It says all that needs to be said. Regardless of what the future holds and how long we have to wait to achieve God's vision, it all really doesn't matter. We have today, and as each moment unfolds into the next is where we touch the holy and wonderful presence of God. Seek this first and the rest shall follow.

If we keep going back to the fountain of faith and taking up the task of discipleship,

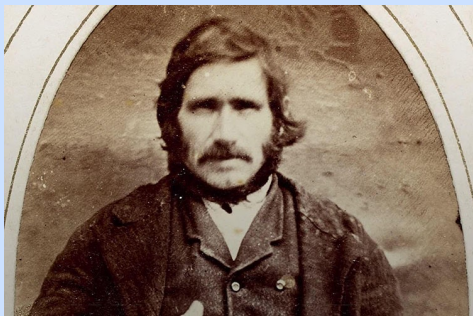
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Patrick Finn Memorial Lectures Haddington Road



Professor Margaret Kelleher: “The Right to be Heard: then and now”

Margaret Kelleher is Professor and Chair of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama at University College Dublin. Her book *‘The Maamtrasna Murders’* (UCC Press), was awarded the Michael J Durkan Prize by the American Conference for Irish Studies in 2019

Her book explores the events and impact of the Maamtrasna murder case.

The trial would become notorious for the court’s failure to provide interpreter and translation services to the accused, a group of monoglot Irish speakers.

The case has long been considered by many historians as one of the greatest miscarriages of justice in British legal history.

On August 17, 1882, five members of the same household in the townland of Maamtrasna on the Galway/Mayo border were murdered.

Five men were imprisoned for life for their part in the killings, and three were executed, one of whom, Myles Joyce, was demonstrably innocent.

In 2018, he was granted a posthumous pardon by President Michael D Higgins – the first granted by an Irish president in a case predating the foundation of the state, when Ireland was still part of the United Kingdom.

THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER, 7.15pm

Refreshments Follow

All Welcome—Admission Free

THOUGHT FOR A DAY

God does not condemn us to hell; God wishes all humans to be saved. He will love us to all eternity, but there will exist the possibility that we do not accept the love and do not respond to it. And the refusal to accept love, the refusal to respond to it, that precisely is the meaning of hell. Hell is not a place where God puts us; it is a place where we put ourselves. The doors of hell, insofar as they have locks, have locks on the inside. *Kallistos Ware* “Image and Likeness,” *Parabola, Volume 10, Number 1: Wholeness*

Parish Autumn Schedule 2019

Sunday 20 October: World Day For Missions

Friday 1 November: Feast of All Saints

Saturday 2 November: All Souls 10qm mass

Requiem Mass: Order of Malta: 11:30am

Sunday 3 November: Mass for the Deceased: 11:00am

Saturday 9 November: Remembrance Mass: Great War Memorial: 10:00am

Remembrance Concert: Adult Lassus Choir

Conductor: Ite O’Donovan: 7:30pm

Monday 18 November: Pastoral Council Meeting: 5:45pm

Sunday 24 November: Ecumenical “Walk of Light”.
Begins: St. Finian’s Lutheran Church: 4:00pm

Thursday 28 November: Finn Memorial Lecture: Francis Campbell, former UK Ambassador to the Holy See.

Advent Saturdays: Night Vigil, 7, 14, 21 December: 7pm - 8pm.

Sunday 8 December: St. Vincent de Paul: Collection

Monday 9 December: Feast of the Immaculate Conception

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Now Meeting Weekly

Every Monday @ 2pm

Parish Centre

All Are Welcome

IN MEMORIAM

6pm... Ruben Taphouse (Anniversary)

11am... Theresa Benson (Months Mind)

5pm... Peter Mc Cormack

Masses on 12th/13th October 2019

6pm... Richard Kelly (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.... €1,145

Share Collection... €742

Weekday collections....€805 (2 weeks)

THANK YOU

Contacts: Fr Fachtna McCarthy, Administrator, Fr Patrick Claffey C.C. Fr Josip Levaković C.C. Tel 01-6600075

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

Child Protection: <http://www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie/ministries/child-protection/> also www.csp.s.dublindiocese.ie

Streaming also at www.churchservices.tv/haddingtonroad

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