

PROMISE OF THE RESURRECTION

There is a fascination in our culture with what happens when we die. Books and films like “Heaven Is for Real” and “90 Minutes in Heaven” captured the attention of millions looking for some sense of hope and meaning for their lives. For us, as 21st century Christians, belief in life after death is something that seems to be an obvious and vital part of our faith, this despite the fact that it is an experience beyond our understanding or imagining.

And yet, in the time of Jesus, belief in a resurrected life was still a relatively new concept. As Sr. Barbara Reid, O.P., observes in “Abiding Word,” “Ideas varied about what it would be like. In the first reading today (2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14), we see the belief expressed that only the just would be raised, not the wicked. In other texts, we find the notion that both would be

raised, the former to eternal reward, the latter for everlasting punishment (cf. Matthew 25:46).” Jesus’ audience would have also included those who did not believe in the concept of a life beyond death, especially the theologically conservative Sadducees. It is this group of religious elite who challenge Jesus in this Sunday’s Gospel passage.

St. Luke sets the scene by having a group of Sadducees trying to trick Jesus into getting involved in their own philosophical debates about resurrection and the existence of angels. They ask Jesus a ridiculous and convoluted question, trying to show that resurrected life is impossible and even at odds with their own religious tradition and the Law of Moses. Ultimately, their question is about men — seven brothers — possessing a woman in the afterlife. Although this scenario seems ridiculous to us today, it is based on marriage laws found in the Book of Deuteronomy (25:5-6), in which Moses says that a widow’s brother-in-law marries her to ensure that lands stay in the first husband’s family and that his name is carried on.

In response, Jesus unravels their question and misperceptions by declaring that there would be no need for marital arrangements in the afterlife. In the resurrection, each person lives as God’s child, free from the fear and prospect of death. As Reid notes, “Jesus shows the Sadducees that Moses himself can be read as affirming that life continues beyond the grave. We can hear, as well, in Jesus’ response, God’s desire for an end to any abuse of women. As beloved daughters of God, they are no longer passed from man to man.”

The resurrected life proclaimed by Jesus goes beyond the limits of human existence. The expectations and customs of this life do not apply. As Pope Francis has reflected, “It is not this life that will serve as a reference point for eternity, for the other life that awaits us; rather, it is eternity — that life — which illumines and gives hope to the earthly life of each one of us!” (Angelus, November 10, 2013).

As we enter the final weeks of the church year, our attention is being drawn to the second coming of Christ and the themes of the “Last Things”: death, judgment, heaven, and hell. And this Sunday’s Gospel is an invitation for us to reflect on the promise of a resurrected life offered us by Jesus: our perfect union with God and the fullness of life forever.

In the end, our belief in the resurrection of the dead and the promise of life beyond death leads us to an encounter with the God who is the God “of the living.” Eternal life isn’t a mystery to be puzzled out or something that can be captured in books or in films. Rather, it is a promise and a gift that is based on our hope and confidence that God is at work in us even now and that we can experience this resurrection life today as we celebrate the joy, mercy, and peace that comes through our faithful relationship with God. We can be confident that what we experience here in grace will reach its fulfilment in the life to come.

Br. Silas Henderson, SDS

**St Mary’s
Parish
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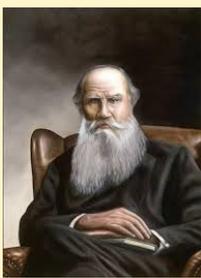
**Serving
the
City**

Review of Child Safeguarding Practice in the Archdiocese of Dublin

Archbishop Martin has invited the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) to conduct a review of safeguarding practice in the Archdiocese of Dublin.

If you have any views about child safeguarding in the Archdiocese of Dublin, we invite you to participate in the review. Three reviewers will be present in Holy Cross Diocesan Centre on the week commencing 18 November and will be contactable on [01 8360314](tel:018360314). Alternatively, you may wish to contact NBSCCCI directly on [01-5053124](tel:015053124).

If you wish to report a child safeguarding concern, please contact the Child Safeguarding and Protection Service (CSPS) on 01 8360314 or your local Gardai or Tusla office. The contact details for the local offices are on the Safeguarding Notice in your local church. CSPS will provide them for you if you have any difficulty finding them.



THOUGHTS FOR A DAY

We are all children of God, and his servants!
...Do you think that he has no servants besides you, and that if you had devoted yourself to his service with your whole strength you could have done all that he needs – all that is needful for the establishment of his kingdom? You say you would do twice, ten times, a hundred times, more than you did.

But if you did ten thousand times ten thousand more than all people have done, what would that have been in the work of God? A mere nothing! God's work, like himself, is infinite. God's work is you. Come to him, and be not a labourer but a child, and you will become a partner of the infinite God and of his world.

Source: *The Gospel in Tolstoy*



If only we try to live sincerely, it will go well with us, even though we are certain to experience real sorrow, and great disappointments, and will also probably commit great faults and do wrong things. But it certainly is true that it is better to be high-spirited – even though one makes more mistakes – than to be narrow-minded and all too prudent. It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength; and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much; and what is done in love, is well done.

Source: *Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh*



**Now EVERY MONDAY
PARISH CENTRE
2.30PM
NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME
COME ALONG**

Parish Autumn Schedule 2019

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

IN MEMORIAM

6pm: Margaret, Thomas and Colm O'Reilly
9.30am: Emer Leonard (Recently deceased)
11am: Gerard Lardner and
Paddy and Patricia Matthews (Anniversaries)

Masses on 16th/17th November 2019

6pm: Niall Moloney. Anniversary
11am: David McCourt (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: €400 (Holyday 1st Nov)
1st Collection: €1,090 (3rd Nov)
Share Collection: €800
Weekday collections: €335

THANK YOU