

PARISH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

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September 4th/5th, 2021

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

❖ **Mass for the coming week**

Monday to Friday at 10.00a.m.

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 5th September 2021

The miracle in today's gospel is an illustration of our growth in faith. It is what happens to every Christian at Baptism. Christ touches our ears so that we can hear his word and touches our tongues, so that we can profess our faith.

First Reading: (Is. 35:4-7)

The prophet urges the people to take courage because God is coming to save his people.

Second Reading: (James 2:1-5)

Class distinctions should have no place among Christians.

Gospel: (Mk. 7:31-37)

Jesus cures a Gentile man who is deaf and has a speech impediment.

REFLECTION

The gift of hearing is a precious gift.

But it is only with the heart that we can hear rightly.

The cry of a needy person may touch our ears,

But unless it reaches our heart, We will not feel the person's pain.

The gift of speech is a precious gift

But again, it is only with the heart that we can speak rightly.

For our words to ring true, they must come from the heart.

If they only come from the lips,

They will have a hollow sound and will have little effect.

Words that come from the heart enter the heart.

❖ **St. Vincent de Paul Collection**

The monthly outdoor collection in aid of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will take place after all Masses [this](#) weekend.

Thank you for your continued support.

❖ **Thank you from Fr. Damian McNeice**

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the warm welcome I've experienced these past few days as I take up my appointment as Parish Priest of both Laurel Lodge and Castleknock parishes. The prayerfulness in St Thomas' and the ease with which so many people carry out their ministries so competently has already left such a positive impression on me. Hearty thanks in particular to Fr. Brendan and Fr. Dan Joe, Teuta, Martina and the whole team for being so patient and gracious as I gradually find my feet and my bearings. Looking forward to walking the road together with hope in the light of the Lord.

Fr Damian McNeice

The Cry of the Earth – The Cry of the Poor

THE CLIMATE CATASTROPHE – CREATION'S URGENT CALL FOR CHANGE

This is the title of a new Pastoral Letter from our Archbishop, Dr. Dermot Farrell, for the Season of Creation 2021 which begins on 1st September every year, taking inspiration from Pope Francis' wonderful document *Laudato Si*. It's available (in PDF format) as a free download from our diocesan website: www.dublindiocese.ie

A Blessing of School Backpacks

As many of our children and grandchildren return to school, here is a simple blessing that anyone can use at home or in class for the blessing of school bags as we start a new academic year:

- **As you carry your bag, may you know that Jesus is walking with you always looking after you.**
- **May you keep safe in all you do, may you be more aware of others too.**
- **May you know the warmth of God's protecting presence in all you say and do.**
- **May the Lord help you at school, to grow in every way.**

After these prayers, sprinkle the bags with some Holy Water, if you have some.

We pray that like the Christ-child, the young people in our parishes will grow in maturity, be filled with wisdom and that God's favour will be with them (*cf Luke 2:40*).

❖ **MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday:	6.30pm	Patrick Quinlan (Anniversary)
Sunday:	9.30am	Muriel McCarthy (Recently Deceased)
	11.00am	Rose O'Reilly (10 th Anniversary)
	12.30pm	Peter Dowling (Anniversary)

❖ **Remember in your prayers**

Tom Tobin, Greta Walsh, John Hollingsworth, Pat Larragy, recently deceased

Remember Also: Michael Kinsella (birthday remembrance),

Paddy Kavanagh (4th Anniversary),

Jim Cooney (Anniversary), Louise Murphy (2nd Anniversary)

May they Rest in Peace

NOTICE

On Tuesday 31st August the Government announced that, from Monday 6th September, "All religious ceremonies can proceed with 50% of venue capacity."

That sounds as if we can move to half full church capacity. However, this change only really benefits very large church buildings as we are still obliged to observe "social distancing between groups."

There has been no indication from Government as to whether that social distancing can be reduced from 2 metres to 1 in our churches as is the case in other community settings.

Until that happens, we will continue to gather safely just as we have been over the past few months, whilst being able to fit just a few more people into the body of the church.

So please continue to be patient and kindly follow the guidance of our volunteer stewards. Without their commitment we simply could not gather for worship.

Fr. Damian McNeice, P.P.