

Reflection for 25th Sunday in Ordinary time.

In today's Gospel reading (cf Mt 20:1-16) there is the **parable of the day-labourers in the vineyard**, which Jesus recounts in order to explain **two aspects of the Kingdom of God**: the **first** is that **God wants to call everyone to work for his Kingdom**; the **second** is that, **in the end, he wants to give everyone the same reward, that is, salvation, eternal life.**

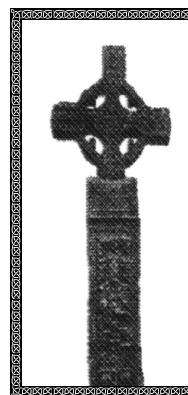
The owner of the vineyard who represents God, goes out at dawn and hires a group of workers, agreeing with them on the day's wages. **It was a fair wage.** Then he goes out again [several times] later in the day — he goes out five times on that day — until the late afternoon to hire other unemployed labourers whom he sees. At the end of the day, the landowner orders that a denarius be paid to everyone, even to those who had only worked for a few hours. Naturally, the labourers who were hired first complain because they see that they are paid as much as those who worked for fewer hours.

The landowner however, reminds them about what had been agreed; if he then wants to be generous with the others, they should not be envious. In reality, this "injustice" of the owner serves to provoke in those listening to the parable a qualitative leap because here Jesus does not want to speak about the issue of work or of a fair wage, but about the Kingdom of God! And this is the message: there are no unemployed people in the Kingdom of God. Everyone is called to do their part; and there will be a reward from divine justice for everyone in the end — not from human [justice], luckily! —, but the salvation that Jesus Christ acquired for us with his death and Resurrection, a salvation which is not deserved, but donated — salvation is free — thus, "the last will be the first and the first last" (Mt 20:16).

With this parable, Jesus wants to open our hearts to the logic of the Father's love which is free and generous. It is about allowing oneself to be astonished and fascinated by the "thoughts" and the "ways" of God which, as the Prophet Isaiah recalls, are not our thoughts and not our ways (cf Is 55:8). Human thoughts are often marked by selfishness and personal advantages, and our narrow and contorted paths are not comparable to the wide and straight streets of the Lord. He uses mercy — do not forget this: He uses mercy —, he forgives broadly, is filled with generosity and kindness which he pours forth on each of us. He opens for everyone the boundless territory of his love and his grace, which alone can give the human heart the fullness of joy.

Jesus wants to make us contemplate the gaze of that landowner: the gaze with which he looks upon each of the labourers searching for work and calls them to go to his vineyard. It is a gaze which is filled with attention, kindness. It is a gaze which calls, invites one to get up and begin a journey because he wants life for each of us; he wants a full, committed life, safe from emptiness and inertia. God excludes no one and wants each of us to achieve his or her fullness. This is the love of our God, of our God who is Father.

Pope Francis



Parish of Clones

Sacred Heart, Clones
St Alphonsus, Connors
St Macartan's, Aghadrumsee

Parish Office by phone or email only
10.00am—5.00pm (Monday—Friday)
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20th September
2020

Twenty-fifth
Week
in
Ordinary Time

Masses and Intentions for the Week Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 19th Vigil	7.30pm	Francis McDonald, Derrygoash; Patricia Dinkin & Paddy & Mary O'Shea, Altertate; Mary, Kathleen & James Slowey, Carraveetra
Sun 20th	10.00am	Wallace & Flaherty Families, Connemara; Dessie Kelly, Belfast
	11.30am	Peggy McPhillips, (Month's Memory) & Mick McPhillips, Carn View
Mon 21st	10.00am	St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Tue 22nd	10.00am	Thomas & Theresa Kelly, Carn Gardens
Wed 23rd	10.00am	St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) James Francis Lewis (O'Connor), Clinagore & London
Thurs 24th	10.00am	D'ecd McGonnell Family, O'Neill Park Monica Toal, Drogheda Noel O'Toole, Dublin
Fri 25th	10.00am	Mary Carron, NTB Road
Sat 26th	10.00am	Mick Hannon, Carn Heights
		Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Vigil	7.30pm	Joe & Emily McPhillips, Millbrook Lorcan & Orla Kelly, McCurtain Street Harry, Bridie & Noel Cleary, Fairview
Sun 27th	10.00am	John James & Annie McMahan, Corraghy Philip & Michael Maguire, Corloughaloon Bernadette Mulligan, Coonian
	11.30am	People of the Parish

Masses for the week

Saturday 7.30pm Sacred Heart, Clones
Sunday 10.00am St. Macartan's, Aghadrumsee
11.30am Sacred Heart, Clones

Masses during the week: Mon-Sat in Sacred Heart Church at 10.00am
(When there is a funeral in Clones, the Mass will be at **11.00am**)

Baptisms are celebrated in Sacred Heart Church on the second Saturday of each month at 4.00pm and in St. Macartan's Church on the third Sunday at 1.00pm.

Adoration: Wednesday, 10.30am - 6.00pm, in Sacred Heart Church.
Confessions: Saturday after Mass or by appointment.

Deaths: We pray for Anna Courtney, Newtownbutler

St. Macartan's:

Reader 27th Sept Kyle Crudden
Eucharistic Minister 27th Sept Marie Cullinan

Sacred Heart Church, 26th & 27th Sept:

Readers Vigil Marie McPhillips
11.30am Hugh McDonald

Ministers of the Eucharist

Vigil Deirdre Kelly
11.30am Danny Crudden

Altar Society Eileen Maguire, Elizabeth McDonald, Ann Farnan

Parish Mobile (in case of emergency): 085 817 6203.

St Alphonsus Church, Connors

The celebration of Mass at 9.00am on the 1st, 3rd (and 5th) Sundays of the month will resume on Sunday 4th October.

Next Sunday we mark the World Day of Migrants and Refugees:

For 2020, Pope Francis has chosen the theme "Forced like Jesus Christ to flee", with a focus on the need for the pastoral care of displaced persons. It is always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers. The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees since 1914.

Covid-19 and the Celebration of Eucharist

HSE and Church regulations state strictly that 50 people only are allowed to gather indoors. For Mass, this includes celebrant, ministers and ushers, which leaves 40 spaces for parishioners. In light of this, 5 places only can be reserved for an Anniversary Mass.

When all seats have been allocated, regulations demand that the doors be closed.

The amplification system will relay Mass for any who are outside, and Holy Communion will be distributed by a Eucharist Minister.

Note again that the Sunday Mass obligation is satisfied by attending a Mass on any day during the week. **In fairness and out of charity**, parishioners are asked to have consideration for those who are able to attend Mass only at weekends.

Face coverings are mandatory inside the church.

These regulations must be implemented for the health and safety of all.

Panic Buttons for Older People

If you are aged over 66 and are interested in applying for a Panic Button under the SAS Pobal scheme please contact Anne Davey, Clones Family Resource Centre on 047 52919 for more information or to make your application. Areas covered include Clones, Smithboro, Newbliss, Drum and Scotshouse. The Panic Buttons can be used with either landlines or mobile phones.

Clones GAA Lotto No winner (1, 13, 17,19) Jackpot €4,800.