

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

20 September 2020

Unequal opportunities

Jesus does not see things as we do. Time and time again in his parables, he turns our expectations upside down and helps us to see things in a different light.

Today, he tells the story of the landowner who pays the same wages to all his workers - those who were hired at the crack of dawn and those who only joined late in the day. Naturally, the 'early birds' are put out by this - they feel it is unjust, even though they received the wage they were promised.

Maybe we sympathise with the complainers. In our individualistic society, we can fall into the trap of thinking that only certain people deserve good things. Those who work hard, who are law-abiding, who make the most of opportunities - they deserve a decent standard of living. Think of how often we hear people complaining about those who are struggling, saying they do not deserve assistance or 'handouts'? Such criticisms fail to take into account that not everyone has the same opportunities or privileges in life.

But in this parable of Jesus, the landowner treats everyone the same, regardless of their productivity. He recognises that not all of them had the same opportunity - some were just luckier than others, in the right place at the right time. God is just and generous, and he expects us to have the same respect for everyone, regardless of their position in life.

Sadly we do not live in an equal world where everyone's dignity is respected and everyone has equal opportunities. In this Season of Creation, we are mindful in particular of the world's poor who suffer most as a result of environmental destruction - damage that is often caused by the comfortable lifestyles of others.

*'Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good,
advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.'* (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*)

Triona Doherty

Announcements

Last week's collection amounted to £1030.00. Thank you.

Parishioners may still leave their contributions at the Parochial House during this time of uncertainty. Please use the letterbox. Cheques should be made payable to Sion Mills Parish. We appreciate your understanding in this matter and your continued support.

May they Rest In Peace

Deaths

Patrick Maguire, Hollywood

Madeleine McShane, Peterborough formerly Columban Terrace

Anniversaries

Willie Earley

Tommy McGlinchey

Daniel Molloy Snr.

Baptisms: To arrange Baptisms please telephone the Parochial House on 028 81658264.

Church Opening Times

The Church will open on Monday - Friday at 9.30am and close at 5.00pm. On Saturday the church will open at 11.00am and close at 6.30pm. On a Sunday the Church will open at 8.00am and close at 5.00pm. This is to facilitate cleaning and sanitising.

First Holy Communion

On Saturday 26 September at 11.00am the children from St. Eugene's Primary School, who were due to make their First Holy Communion on 9 May 2020, will receive Holy Communion for the first time in St. Theresa's Church, Sion Mills. The children from *St. Theresa's Primary School* will make First Holy their Communion on Saturday 3 October at 11.00am and *Sion Primary School* on Saturday 17 October at 11.00am.

Sacred Heart Messenger

The September digital version of the Messenger will be the last to be offered free of charge to non-subscribers. From October the digital version will only be available to subscribers. The cost is €15.00. We hope you will decide to subscribe if you are not currently a subscriber. The September version can be viewed on https://issuu.com/messengerpublications/docs/messenger_september.

Totus Tuus Magazine

Due to the Covid-19 Outbreak, Totus Tuus magazine is now being delivered straight to your door. If you would like to start receiving Totus Tuus to your home please telephone Fiona on 00353 86 8760058.

The Net

The September edition of 'The Net' is available online at www.derrydiocese.org. This month there is a feature 'Remembering Bishop Lagan' and a 'Remembering John Hume' article.