

The Presbytery, Abbeydorney (066 7135146)

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27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021

Dear Parishioner,

During the weekends of September, you have been hearing a little bit about the Season of Creation, that will come to an end with the feast of St. Francis, tomorrow 4<sup>th</sup> October. Some of the Prayer of the Faithful petitions related to the care of our earth and the protection of our environment. I wonder did the publicity about the Season of Creation and the promotion of it touch our lives in any way! **It is probably true to say that, in Ireland, the effects of climate change, that are visible in many parts of the world, are not showing themselves to us. Does that mean that we do not have to heed the call to be ready to change our ways and to lead by example!**

The following piece is taken from the liturgy resources provided by our diocese for this weekend. As has been the case with material provided for the weekends of September, reference is made to the Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis – **Laudato Si (Praised be)**. This weekend, we mark the end of the Season of Creation, a time where we celebrate all that is part of our beautiful world, God's creation. It is a season where we pray with and for creation and remind ourselves that we are protectors of this earth, given responsibility *'to till'* and *'to care'*, **'not to plunder and destroy'**. Yet, we know that our world is suffering. Pope Francis, in his letter, **'On care for our Common Home'** asks us to hear the cry of the earth, to awaken to what is happening to God's creation and to take the urgent action that is needed. **Laudato Si** describes the roots of the environmental crisis as a deeply **spiritual crisis** because we have forgotten who we are and where we come from. We are called to reconnect with God's creation and take example from St. Francis of Assisi, who is the patron saint of ecology and saw God in all of creation. He saw the deep interconnectedness of all things and experienced God's creation as family, **'Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Wind, Sister Water'**.

As we end the 'Season of Creation', we start Mission Month, which reaches its high point with **'World Mission Sunday'** on 24<sup>th</sup> October. This weekend, you have a chance to read why such importance is given to **'being missionary'** in a world which is very different from that when the **'Missionary Society of St. Columban'** (1918) and **'St. Patrick's Missionary Society'** (1932) were founded. **'A Clare heroine'** was written by one of our parishioners. (Fr. Denis O'Mahony)

**We cannot but speak..... (Fr. Michael P.O'Sullivan, Intercom October 2021.)**

After the first World War, Pope Benedict XV invited Catholics to bring light to a world devastated by conflict. **By virtue of their baptism, all Catholics were called to be missionary minded, and missionaries needed to be men and women of God.** His successor Pope Pius XI made the second last Sunday of October a day dedicated to *'the missions'*, that is a special day to pray for and assist missionaries in their call to *'go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News'*. Over a century has passed since this missionary call gave a fresh impetus to the Church to *'go out to the whole world.'*

**From sending to exchange:** Mission is no longer as *'Ad Gentes'* the title of the Vatican II decree, suggests with its proposition *'ad'* seen purely in terms of sending out to far distant territories bringing human, financial, organisational, or spiritual resources that the recipients do not have. Today our missionary praxis invites us into a logic of exchange and of service, of sharing, of giving and receiving. **There is a realisation that the Holy Spirit is already present in every person, and he has preceded us in the many post-modern Galilees where no one is too helpless to give nothing, nor too rich to have nothing to receive.**

**The world is a place of mission:** The second possible change in paradigm is that we must rid ourselves of outdated preconceived notions. In the Church, there are no *'Catholic countries'* or what some people refer to in the Middle East as *'Christian villages'*. **The Lord's mission is everywhere and all the baptised are called to become missionary. This is the constant teaching of Pope Francis.**

**Re-invention mission:** The third challenge which we in Ireland have become all too aware of in recent years is the fact that there is an increasing number of baptised Christians who no longer belong to any community, the so-called *'non-denominational'*. How do we proclaim the Good News to those who say they already know Jesus, but for whom the message of the Gospel has lost its meaning and relevance? **How do we communicate with those who believe they know Christianity, or who sometimes claim to have gained from its positive elements, but who no longer identify with the Catholic Church.**

**Mission as dialogue and communion:** The fourth challenge is the fact that the history of salvation does not present itself as the progressive conquest of peoples or territories even if, historically speaking, missionary activity was sometimes closely associated with colonialism. **Today Catholicism refuses**

**proselytism and has no product to sell other than the joy of the Gospel. Dialogue with other faiths has become an integral part of the mission of the Church.** Missionaries' only treasure to share is the witness of people who, for over two thousand years, have been transformed to following the footsteps of him who *'did not come to be served but to serve.'* (Mt. 20:28). Missionaries today own nothing, they are only *'carriers'* of a message of hope and peace which gives true meaning and joy to their lives. Missionary work today is a work of love, of giving, of sharing of gratuity which so many missionaries today give witness to. **As his followers, we missionaries passionately believe in the total worth of every person and that the world can be transformed by the powerful message of the Good News.** For this reason, the universal Church is called each year during the month of October to celebrate mission, to pray for the missionaries and to give generously to the churches in need. **Thank you for your prayers and for your support of Missio Ireland. Pope Francis will use your gifts to bring the Good News of God's love to 1,100 dioceses in the world.**

**A Clare heroine:** It was while I was watching *"Hector in Africa"* the other night that I got thinking about my neighbour at home in Clare, Sr. Ethel Normoyle, who, sadly, died from lung cancer this past month of August. She joined the Religious Order of the Little Company of Mary, trained to be a nurse and was sent to South Africa in 1972. She missed her parents and her six brothers and sisters so much that she was ready to return to Ireland, when she happened upon a slum, where she thought cattle would not survive. She had always loved animals and she went to investigate the area and discovered, to her horror, that there were people living there. She decided there and then to do something to improve the conditions of the people. **She began her work under a tree - teaching, nursing and fighting against poverty HIV and Aids.** When her family and people back at home in Clare learned what Sr. Ethel was doing, they set about finding ways to help her. Money was raised through collections, dances, golf competitions and, after some time, groups of tradesmen volunteered to go to South Africa to build resource centres, classrooms and anything that she needed. The area where she worked was called Missionvale and Sr. Ethel had the privilege of welcoming Queen Elizabeth and Mother Teresa of Calcutta, to see the wonderful work that was being done by her helpers and herself. As a person, Sister Ethel was a beautiful, happy, caring person and a wonderful singer. Her faith in God was stunning and she knew her parents and her family kept her well protected with their prayers. Her work will not be forgotten. She has been an inspiration to people of all ages in Ireland and in South Africa.

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

The world is in crisis. In many poorer parishes in Africa, Asia, and Latin America it is overseas missionaries who are on the front line. **There will be a collection for the Missions the weekend of Mission Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> October).** Alternatively donate at [www.missio.ie](http://www.missio.ie) or call Missio Ireland on 01 497 2035.

**To learn more, go to [www.missio.ie](http://www.missio.ie)**

Missio Ireland is the Holy Father's official charity for overseas mission. Through your generosity, they support missionaries who are caring for some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. **(Mission Ireland Update)**

### Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel John Byrne osa

1. Marriages do break down, but in this story Jesus appears as the wise person urging people to seek first the original harmony where possible, rather than seek escape routes when difficulties arise. **When have you found that, in marriage or in other relationships, the bonds have been strengthened when you have been prepared to work through difficulties?**
2. There are other things that we needlessly and wrongly put in opposition: young and old, male and female, people from different cultures, body and soul. Perhaps at times you have discovered the advantages of exploring the richness in combining such apparently exclusive opposites.
3. The children in the second story can be taken as representing any group of *'little ones'* whose opinion we may be inclined to dismiss. **When have you found that you have been taught an important lesson about life, about love, or about faith by people whose views you had been inclined to dismiss?**

**(Intercom October 2021)**

**Month of the Rosary:** The dedication of the month of October to the Rosary developed towards the end of the twentieth century, with the special promotion of the Rosary by Pope Leo X111 (1878-1903). At the centre of the month is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Its history involves victories in battles and decisions of several Popes. Pope Pius the V attributed the victory over the Turkish fleet at Lepanto, off the coast of Greece, on the first Sunday of October 1571 to the power of the Rosary prayed in Rome and elsewhere on that day. He ordered a feast of the Rosary, **'Our Lady of Victory'** on that day. Pope Pius X transferred the feast from Sunday to its original date, 7<sup>th</sup> October. In 1960, the feast was given its present title, **'Our Lady of the Rosary.'**