

Today's Gospel: 10:46-52 Go; your faith has saved you

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.



TODAY IS MISSION SUNDAY: This weekend parishes worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday. The kindness shown will help overseas missionaries to continue to share the love of God with some of the world's most marginalised and vulnerable people. Thank you for supporting in whatever way you can, and please remember it is more than an appeal for financial help. Missionaries also need spiritual support. On World Mission Sunday missionaries take great strength in knowing that the faithful of the world are keeping them in their thoughts and prayers. Help right now. Donate €4.00 by texting the word 'Mission' to 50300. Alternatively donate at www.missio.ie or call Missio Ireland on 01 497 2035. To learn more go to www.missio.ie

COVID 19: The following government protective measures are recommended at Religious Services from 22nd October.

- (a) Encourage those with symptoms not to attend church.
- (b) Have sanitisers available at the doors.
- (b) Social distancing to continue.
- (d) One way systems to continue.
- (e) Wearing of face coverings to continue.
- (f) The celebrant and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to wear face coverings and sanitise hands before and after distribution.
- (g) No handshake as a sign of peace.
- (h) Communion on the hand only.
- (h) Ventilation of the church.
- (i) Choirs may sing while observing the guidelines of the HPSC - have a socially distant performance following risk assessment.

FROM POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR MISSION SUNDAY 2021

The theme of this year's World Mission Day - "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20), is a summons to each of us to "own" and to bring to others what we bear in our hearts. This mission has always been the hallmark of the Church, for "she exists to evangelize" (SAINT PAUL VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 14). Our life of faith grows weak, loses its prophetic power and its ability to awaken amazement and gratitude when we become isolated and withdraw into little groups. By its very nature, the life of faith calls for a growing openness to embracing everyone, everywhere. The first Christians, far from yielding to the temptation to become an elite group, were inspired by the Lord and his offer of new life to go out among the nations and to bear witness to what they had seen and heard: the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand. They did so with the generosity, gratitude and nobility typical of those who sow seeds in the knowledge that others will enjoy the fruit of their efforts and sacrifice. I like to think that "even those who are most frail, limited and troubled can be missionaries in their own way, for goodness can always be shared, even if it exists alongside many limitations" (*Christus Vivit*, 239).

On World Mission Day, we recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel. Let us remember especially all those who resolutely set out, leaving home and family behind, to bring the Gospel to all those places and people athirst for its saving message.

Contemplating their missionary witness, we are inspired to be courageous ourselves and to beg "the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Lk 10:2). We know that the call to mission is not a thing of the past, or a romantic leftover from earlier times. Today too Jesus needs hearts capable of experiencing vocation as a true love story that urges them to go forth to the peripheries of our world as messengers and agents of compassion. He addresses this call to everyone, and in different ways. We can think of the peripheries all around us, in the heart of our cities or our own families. Universal openness to love has a dimension that is not geographical but existential. Always, but especially in these times of pandemic, it is important to grow in our daily ability to widen our circle, to reach out to others who, albeit physically close to us, are not immediately part of our "circle of interests" (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 97). To be on mission is to be willing to think as Christ does, to believe with him that those around us are also my brothers and sisters. May his compassionate love touch our hearts and make us all true missionary disciples.

May Mary, the first missionary disciple, increase in all the baptized the desire to be salt and light in our lands (cf. Mt 5:13-14).

Monday, 25th October. BL. Thaddeus MacCarthy
8.00am: Special Intention
10.00am: Oliver McCauley (A)

Tuesday, 26th October.
8.00am: Leah Sheridan (recently deceased)
10.00am: John and Mary Chapman (A)

Wednesday, 27th October. St. Otteran
8.00am: Hugh and Mary Quinn (A)
10.00am: William O'Leary (A)

Thursday, 28th November. Saints Simon and Jude , Apostles
8.00am: Eileen & Felix O'Reilly and Charles & Eileen O'Reilly (A)
10.00am: John Gibbons (A)

Friday, 29th October. St. Colman of Kilmacduagh
8.00am: James Monaghan (A)
10.00am: Mary Willis (A)

Saturday, 30th October.
8.00am: Loretta Clarke (A)
10.00am: Noel and Maureen Gannon and DFM (A)

Sunday, 31st October.
6.00pm (*Vigil*): Joseph Al, Noele and Joan Kelly (A)
7.30pm (*Vigil*): Mary and Dermot Brennan (A)
8.00am: Sam Dennigan (A)
10.00am: Noel Farrell (A)
11.30am: *Shared*: Joe Williams (A). Oliver Warnock (A).
1.00pm Marion Gilchrist (A)
6.00pm Thomas Ward (A)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank each one of you most sincerely for your continued generous contributions to our weekly collections. The amount received in the Offertory Collection last week was €3,815.00.

BAPTISM: With joy, we recently welcomed Jolene Philomena Farrell and Markas Uzkuraitis into the Christian Community.

REST IN PEACE: Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the souls of Rosemarie Kenny, "Calcar", Major's Well Road and Kevin Michael Davis, Cork and formerly Main St. whose funerals took place during the week. Also Anna Cunningham, (née Ward), Farneyhoogan whose funeral takes place on Monday at 11'oclock, burial afterwards in Ballymacormack Cemetery.

GARDA BAND: Longford and Granard District Gardai together with Longford Participation Network present the Band of An Garda Siochana in Concert in St. Mel's Cathedral next Sunday 31st October at 3pm. Tickets €10. Proceeds going to local charities. Tickets on sale at the presbytery.

AL ANON meetings (for relatives and friends of alcoholics) will be held in the Family Centre on Tuesday nights at 7.00pm, starting next Tuesday 26th October.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE: If you would like to be involved in your Parish we would like to hear from you. We are looking for volunteers to be part of the following teams: Reader of the word, minister of holy communion, usher, liturgy committee, altar server, environment group, choir, hospitality, family mass, weekly counters, altar society, development committee, cathedral circle, baptism team. Training were necessary will be provided. Please contact the parish office.

VIRTUAL ALZHEIMER CAFÉ: The Longford branch of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, will hold their Monthly Virtual Alzheimer Café next Wednesday 27th Oct at 7.30pm. Guest speaker is Kathy McCollum, Clinical Nurse Specialist, and her topic is 'Explaining Responsive Behaviours'. The Café runs on the last Wednesday of every month, contact Eileen on 085 8724475.

LOCAL PROPERTY TAX: Nov 7th is the deadline for submitting your Property Tax Return. If you are having difficulty in assessing the value of your property feel free to contact John Farrell. This service is provided free of charge. Phone John, (043) 33 41176 or (086) 8346559 at anytime.

ANNIVERSARY MASS DIARY 2022: Bookings for Masses will commence on Monday 1st November. Anniversaries may be booked at 3346465.

INDULGENCES: **1.** From 12noon on 1st Nov until midnight on 2nd Nov, all who have confessed and prayed for the pope's intentions (*one Our Father and Hail Mary, or any other prayer of one's choice*) can gain one plenary indulgence by visiting a church or oratory, and there reciting one Our Father and the Apostle's Creed. This indulgence is applicable only to the souls of the departed. **2.** The faithful who visit a cemetery and pray for the dead may gain a plenary indulgence applicable only to the Holy Souls on the usual conditions once per day from 1st to 8th Nov. The conditions mentioned above apply also for this.