

Gospel Luke 15:1-3,11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**My Jesus,
I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.**

**I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.**

**Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
please come spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace You now
as if You were already there
and I unite myself wholly to You.**

**Never permit me
to be separated from You.
Amen.**

Countless saints incorporated this prayer into their daily lives when they could not celebrate Eucharist. Making an act of spiritual communion for them was an essential part of life and drew them closer to God on a daily basis. It has been the staple of so many people's prayer over the past two years. After Easter, we will cease praying the prayer publicly in the Cathedral, but we are aware that so many parishioners will continue to join the Lord in Spiritual Communion, so we publish the prayer in the hope that in praying it, they will continue to draw comfort in the assurance that the Lord is near.

Monday, 28th March.
7.30am: No Intention 10.00am: Vincent Mulligan (A)
 1.05pm: Mario Pompa (Intention)

Tuesday, 29th March.
7.30am: Special Intention 10.00am: Mario Pompa (Intention)
 1.05pm: Viktorija Preisaitiene (recently deceased)

Wednesday, 30th March.
7.30am: Special Intention
 10.00am: Philip and Annie, Michael and Maureen Fay (A)
 1.05pm: Mario Pompa (Intention)

Thursday 31st March
7.30am: Special Intention 10.00am: Mario Pompa (Intention)
 1.05pm: No Intention
 7.30pm Curry: No Intention

Friday, 1st April. First Friday. St. Ceallach (Celsus)
7.30am: Special Intention 10.00am: No Intention
 1.05pm: No Intention
 7.30pm: Elizabeth Mollaghan (A)

Saturday, 2nd April. St. Francis of Paola
 8.00am: Padraic McGowan (Birthday Remembrance)
 10.00am: Souls in Purgatory

Sunday, 3rd April. Fifth Sunday of Lent
 7.30pm (Vigil): Brian Burke (A)
 8.00am: Thomas Feeley & DFM also Thomas & Bridget Mahon & DFM
 10.00am: Frank Glancy (1st A)
 11.30am: *Shared:* Joseph (Joe) Donoghue (Month's Mind).
 Mary Mitchell (A).
 1pm: Helen Donoghue (A)
 6pm: Betty and Paddy Dowd (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 for last weekend was €4,870.00. St. Patrick's Day €3,230.00.

CONTACTLESS DONATIONS: We are delighted to announce that we are in a position to accept donations or payments by debit or credit card in the office. Payments can be made in person or over the phone.

REST IN PEACE: Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the soul of Rose Foudy (née Gilligan), St. Mary's Terrace, whose funeral took place during the week in the Cathedral.

FRIDAY 1ST APRIL is the 1st Friday of the month. Priests will bring Holy Communion to the sick and the housebound.

FIRST CONFESSIONS: The Sacrament of First Confession will take place on Monday at 6.30pm for St. Joseph's N.S. and Tuesday for Stonepark N.S.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be prayed in the Cathedral on Friday evenings at 7pm. Mass will follow at 7.30pm.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION: Responding to the Lenten challenge to prayer and silence, we resume our Tuesday evening gatherings in the Meditation Room over the sacristy. We need the support of gathering in community. All that is needed is the willingness to be quiet and still in the presence of the Lord. We meet every Tuesday evening from 6.40pm to 7.15pm. We enter through the back door of the Cathedral, from 6.30pm. All are welcome.

UKRAINE: As part of a nationwide collection, we here in the Cathedral will have a special collection at all Masses this weekend.

MARY'S MEALS: Pop up fundraising shop for Mary's meals. 7th to 9th April from 10am to 5.30pm. St Paul's Gate House, Connolly Army Barracks, Church St. Longford. Contact Kitty at 087 040562

ARDAGH & CLONMACNOIS DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: our diocesan pilgrimage will take place this year from the 23rd to 27th May. The costs are as follows, €679 Hotel Agena. €699 Hotel La Solitude. Monsignor Bernard Noonan is the Pilgrimage Director, Tel: 0906 481180. All pilgrim bookings to JWT, 69 O'Connell Street, Dublin 1, Tel: 01 2410800.

VIRTUAL ALZHEIMER CAFÉ: The Longford branch will hold their monthly virtual Alzheimer Café next Wed 30th March at 7.30pm. Guest speaker is Paul Farrell, his topic is 'Family Carers Supports'. For info contact Eileen on 085 8724475 or email longfordwestmeathvirtualcafe@alzheimier.ie