

Harvest Festival of Faith – October 2013

We looked at October as a month for harvesting faith in different ways. Apart from the homilies and intercessions that will draw on faith themes in the scripture of the day we suggested homework each Sunday that involves some activity that engages with the earth whether in the garden or in a window box.

Homilies

- 6 October** **Day for Life Growing Faith**
Lord, "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5)
- 13 October** **Renewing Faith**
Your faith has saved you (Luke 17:19)
- 20 October** **Mission Day Spreading Faith**
Will he find any faith on earth? (Luke 18:8)
- 27 October** **Keeping Faith**
I have kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7)

Homework

- 8 October** *A time for planting bulbs (hyacinths) that will blossom before Christmas*
- 15 October** *A time for renewal by transplanting and refreshing the garden*
- 22 October** *A time for sharing by dividing up plants and offering slips to neighbours*
- 29 October** *A time for protecting plants by watering and nourishing them*

Harvest Harvest Festival of Faith

A sample service to celebrate a Harvest Festival of Faith will be modelled at the Autumn Liturgy Seminar and available for download. This will include the traditional harvest thanksgiving service and elements for the celebration of the harvesting of faith.

Harvest Faith Card

Suggested colours of autumn gold, orange and brown

Celebration of Harvest Festival of Faith

Monday 21 October 2013 – 8.00 p.m.

Monastery of St. Alphonsus

St. Alphonsus Road, Drumcondra

Music led by Dublin Diocesan Music Group

Directed by Pat O'Donoghue

October Harvesting
Top 10 things to do this month

1. Clear up fallen autumn leaves regularly

Be mindful of those who have stopped participating in parish life or who have fallen by the wayside. Consider what might bring them together or how to make contact with them.

2. Cut back perennials that have died down

Look at events and programmes that happen every year but which have lost their life and vitality. Don't be afraid to let them go if they have served their purpose.

3. Divide herbaceous perennials and rhubarb crowns

Share resources with other parishes and learn from what works for them.

4. Move tender plants, including aquatic ones, into the greenhouse

Look after those whose faith is vulnerable and ensure that they are cared for and their spiritual needs met.

5. Plant out spring cabbages

Make plans for the new season for the established programmes of faith.

6. Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts

Gather together those involved in parish faith development such as Do This In Memory Team, Baptism Team, RCIA Group etc. and celebrate their experiences.

7. Prune climbing roses

Review blossoming projects and cut back where necessary to ensure continued success

8. Order seeds for next year

Book resource people, let people know the possibilities and ideas as you make plans for Advent and the new Church year.

9. Last chance to mow lawns and trim hedges in mild areas

Make final checklist of all that needs to be done and the areas that need to be cut back.

10. Renovate old lawns or create new grass areas by laying turf

Create new structures and foundations for next year's initiatives

Harvest Festival of Faith 2013

Prelude **Autumn – Four Seasons (Second Movement) (Antonio Vivaldi)**

Procession

Procession of harvest produce such as breads and cakes as well as fruit, vegetables and flowers

Poem

Ode To Autumn (John Keats)

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells

Song

All sing:

In You Creation Finds Its Joy (Ronan McDonagh)

In you creation finds its joy, you have clothed it in your beauty;
alleluia.

Presentation

Brief presentation of Year of Faith initiatives

Opening Prayer

Let us pray,
God of all life
from whose gracious hand all creatures are fed
humble our hearts in wonder of your creation
inspire in us praise for the good things you give
and lead us into peace with all that you have made. **Amen.**

Song

Brother Sun and Sister Moon (Donovan Leitch)

Brother Sun and Sister Moon
I seldom see you seldom hear your tune
Preoccupied with selfish misery

Brother Wind and Sister Air
Open my eyes to visions pure and fair
That I may see the glory around me.

I am God's creature, of Him I am part
I feel His love awakening my heart.

Brother Sun and Sister Moon
I now do see you, I can hear your tune
So much in love with all that I survey.

Reflection**All say:****Canticle of Creation (St. Francis of Assisi)**

O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God,
to you belong praise, glory,
honour and all blessing.
Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation
and especially for our Brother Sun,
who brings us the day and the light;
he is strong and shines magnificently.
O Lord, we think of you when we look at him.
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,
and for the stars
which you have set shining and lovely
in the heavens.
Be praised, my Lord,
for our Brothers Wind and Air
and every kind of weather
by which you, Lord,
uphold life in all your creatures.
Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,
who is very useful to us,
and humble and precious and pure.
Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,
through whom you give us light in the darkness:
he is bright and lively and strong.
Be praised, my Lord,
for Sister Earth, our Mother,
who nourishes us and sustains us,
bringing forth
fruits and vegetables of many kinds
and flowers of many colours.
Be praised, my Lord,
for those who forgive for love of you;
and for those
who bear sickness and weakness
in peace and patience
- you will grant them a crown.
Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death,
whom we must all face.
I praise and bless you, Lord,
and I give thanks to you,
and I will serve you in all humility.

Song**All sing:****The Peace Of The Earth (Guatamalan - Arr. John Bell/Marty Haugen)**

The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens, too.
The peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace flowing over you,
God's peace growing in you.

Growing Faith

Song **Increase our Faith (David Haas)**

All sing: Lord, increase our faith, with all our heart may we always follow you.
Teach us to pray, always.

Reading **Luke 17:5-6**

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.

All sing: Lord, increase our faith, with all our heart may we always follow you.
Teach us to pray, always.

Procession

Procession with Plants and Seeds that will blossom during the winter and early spring season such as winter and lamb's lettuce, spinach or hyacinths and cyclamen.

Song **Ag Críost An Síol (Seán Ó Riada)**

All sing: Ag Críost an síol, ag Críost an fómhar,
In iothlainn Dé go dtugtar sinn.
Ag Críost an mhuir, ag Críost an t-iasc,
I líonta Dé go gcastar sinn
Ó fhás go haois, is ó aois go bás,
Do dhá láimh, a Chríost, anall tharainn.
Ó bhás go críoch, ní críoch ach athfhás,
I bParthas na nGrást go rabhaimid.

Presentation

Brief presentation of parish faith initiatives now getting under way or planned for the winter seasons.

1. I present members of the Do This In Memory Programme who are privileged to share their faith with young people preparing for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, their families and the whole community.
2. I present members of the Advent Prayer Group who will offer ideas for prayer during this season of patient waiting and expectation.
3. I present members of the Liturgy Group who are focussing at this time on the importance of hospitality and the ministry of welcome.

Blessing

The plants and the various representatives are then blessed with holy water

All say: God of new life,
Bless these symbols of new beginnings that we plant now in a spirit of hope. Bless all the faith initiatives of our community. May they enrich the lives of all they touch and draw them closer to their spiritual home where they can blossom. We ask this in the Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Renewing Faith

Song Spirit Of The Living God (Daniel Iverson)

All sing: Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me (2)
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Reading Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were there not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

All sing: Spirit of the living God fall afresh on us (2)
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use us
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on us.

Procession

A procession of slips and cuttings to be transplanted are brought forward for blessing

Presentation

A representative of the Parish Pastoral Council will briefly suggest areas for renewal in the life of the community and look at successful initiatives in neighbouring parishes that could be 'transplanted'. Someone from another parish might also share on what has worked for them.

Reflection Faith is ... (Joan Chittester OSB)

- Faith is belief that God is leading us to become in tune with the universe, however different we see ourselves to be.
- Faith is trust in the unknown goodness of life without demand for certainty in the science of it.
- Faith is belief that the God we call "our God" is either the God of all or cannot possibly be God at all.
- Faith is confidence in darkness, for the willingness to trust in the deep-down humanity of others - as well as in our own - may be the deepest act of faith we can possibly devise.
- Faith is the willingness to see God at work in others – in their needs and ideas, their hopes and plans – as well as in ourselves

All sing: Spirit of the living God fall afresh on all (2)
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use all
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on all.

Spreading Faith

Song **Come With Me Into The Fields (Dan Schutte)**
All sing: The harvest is plenty, labourers are few,
Come with me into the fields
Your arms may grow weary, your shoes will wear thin
Come with me into the fields.

Reading **Luke 18: 1-8**
Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worrying me to death.'" And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

All sing: The harvest is plenty, labourers are few...

Presentation

Someone who has worked in traditional mission countries will offer a reflection on the state of Christian faith in Ireland at this time and make some proposals for evangelisation. Young people involved in ministry such as Elation Ministries or World Youth Day might share their experiences. Video footage of World Youth Day in Rio could also be shown.

All sing: The harvest is plenty, labourers are few ...

Reflection **Seed of Wholeness (Mary Ferring)**
Inside the core of each seed, no matter
How large or how tiny, a potential waits
For the life within to lift its face to the sun
And gift the world with a burst of freshness.
Such is your life within me, the potential
For wholeness, a seed of grace so vast
That each kernel of my latent goodness,
Whether it is unknown or undeveloped,
Can manifest its inherent greenness
And grow into a harvest of love.

Song **Go Out and Tell (Bobby Fisher)**
All sing: Go out and tell make disciples of nations,
Go out and tell the Good News.
Sing from your heart, sing to all of creation
Go out and tell the Good News.

Keeping Faith

Song Faithful is the Lord (Liam Lawton)

All sing: Faithful is the Lord our king
Let us all in glory sing.
Ever praise in song and word
Holy, holy, holy Lord.

Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8.16-18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on the Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

All sing: Faithful is the Lord our king...

Story The Sunflower and the Sparrow (ed. Margaret Silf)

Song Unless a Grain of Wheat (Bernadette Farrell)

All sing: Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die
It remains but a single grain without life.

Prayer

All say: God over me, God under me, God before me, God behind me,
I on thy path O God
Thou, O God in my stepsⁱ

Song Healing Light (Karl Jenkins)

Reflection Harvest Of My Heart (Edward Hays)

When I pause to gather
The produce of my inner garden
Everything that yields abundance
Holds your flavour, scent and shape.
The recognised fruits of daily effort,
The results of faithful discipline,
The increasing growth of healthy habits,
And the tender ripening of virtues,
All this comes from your grace,
From you, Harvest of my Heart.

Song The Peace Of The Earth (Guatamalan - Arr. John Bell/Marty Haugen)

All sing: The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens, too.
The peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace flowing over you,
God's peace growing in you.

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Song	Healing Light (Karl Jenkins)

Reflection**Autumn Ebbing**

All that grows and lives must give up life,
Yet it does not really die.
And yellow leaves of trees
Float to my lawn like parachute troops
They do so in a sea of serenity.
I am surrounded by a peaceful ebbing
As creation bows to the mystery of life
All that grows and lives must give up life
Yet it does not really die.
I hear no fearful cries from creation
No screams of terror
As death daily devours
Once green and growing life.
Peaceful and calm is autumn's swan-song
For she understands
That hidden in winter's death grip
Is spring's open-handed
Full brimmed breath of life.
It is not a death rattle that sounds
Over fields and backyard fences;
Rather I hear a lullaby
Softly swaying on the autumn wind
Sleep in peace all that lives
Slumber secure all that is dying
For in every fall there is the rise
Whose sister's name is spring.

Song**All sing:****The Peace Of The Earth (Guatamalan - Arr. John Bell/Marty Haugen)**

The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens, too.
The peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace flowing over you,
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¹ From the *Carmina Gadelica* by Alexander Carmichael p 321 Republished 2007 by Forgotten Books