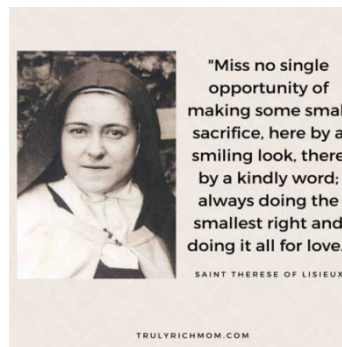


The Year In All Its Richness 2016/2017

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) – 2 October 2016 –

‘Increase our faith ...Were your faith the size of a mustard seed... (Luke 17:5/6)...fan into a flame (2 Tim1:6)

1 October - St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus (Thérèse of Lisieux – d.1897 – Little Flower)



3 October - Blessed Columba Marmion (1858-1923) – Rosh Hashana



'I try to meet all vexations with a smile'

To put our confidence in God, is it not indeed to believe in His word? to be assured that in listening to Him we shall attain to holiness, that in abandoning ourselves to Him, He will bring us to beatitude? **This faith is easy** when we meet with no difficulty, and walk in a way of light and consolation: it is a little like the case of those who read the account of expeditions to the North Pole while comfortably sitting by the fireside. But when we are struggling with temptation, with suffering and trial, when we are in dryness of heart and spiritual darkness, then it needs a **strong faith** to abandon ourselves to God and remain entirely united to His holy will. The more difficult the **exercise of this faith** is for us, the more pleasing to God is the homage that flows from it.' [From *Christ, the Ideal of the Monk*, Part II, chapter 16, section 5]

4 October - St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) – Blessing of Animals – End of Season of Creation – Laudato si



“Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs” (St. Francis of Assisi)



‘Examining our consciences, repentance and confession to our Father who is rich in mercy lead to *a firm purpose of amendment*. This in turn must translate into concrete ways of thinking and acting that are more respectful of creation. For example: “avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices” (*Laudato Si'*, 211). We must not think that these efforts are **too small** to improve our world. They “call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread” and encourage “a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption” (ibid., 212, 222).’

Pope Francis – World Day of Prayer for Creation 2016.

Rosh Hashanah 2016 begins in the evening of **Sunday, October 2** and ends in the evening of **Tuesday, October 4**



Rosh Hashana is the Jewish New Year **Festival** and celebrates the **creation** of Adam and Eve. It is sometimes called the Feast of Trumpets because of the use of the Shofar which is sounded on each of the 10 Days of Awe that follow. Apples dipped in honey express a hope for a sweet new year.

Small is good...mustard seed of faith...fan into a flame...doing the smallest right...not too small...even ‘a smile’...sound the trumpet in praise of creation... various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs... ‘The Little Flower’...Lord, Increase our Faith.

Try ‘Marvellous Things’ from **Emmanuel 2017**.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) - 9 October

Jesus, take pity on us

Healing is at the heart of the Word of God in today's liturgy. 'Jesus, take pity on us' (Luke 17:13) is the cry of the ten who have been marginalised because of their illness. Yet it was a foreigner that came back to offer thanks in that account just as it was Naaman, a foreigner too, who was healed in the waters of the Jordan at the time of the Prophet Elisha (2 Kings 5). Healing the stranger

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary falls on **7 October** and this ancient prayer is often used as a petition for healing and a way of saying thanks for favours received.



The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary was inaugurated by Pope Pius V after the victory of the Christian army over the Muslims at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571 which was attributed to the power of that prayer. The tradition of praying constantly using prayer beads in the Indian pre-Christian tradition or prayer ropes from the Desert Fathers and Mothers predates the organisation of the

rosary in the form it is prayed today. In 2002, Saint John Paul II introduced the Mysteries of Light that cover the public ministry of Jesus by way of complementing the 15 traditional mysteries. Try 'Hail Holy Queen' from **Emmanuel 2017**.

Pope Francis spent some time in Germany during a difficult period in his life in the 80s and was inspired by the image of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots in Augsburg and confirmed his daily practice of the rosary. Now as Pope, he has used the symbolism of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, to explain matters of the faith. "Mary, whose 'yes' opened the door for God to undo the knot of the ancient disobedience, is the Mother who patiently and lovingly brings us to God, so that he can untangle the knots of our soul by his fatherly mercy."



Pope Francis and King Abdullah II of Jordan in front of a copy of the painting of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots.

Day of Atonement

On **11/12 October** the Jewish celebration of **Yom Kippur** occurs. It is 10 ten days after Rosh Hashana – the Jewish New Year. The Day of Atonement is celebrated when Jewish people turn to the God of mercy to seek forgiveness and make atonement for their sins. This day is prescribed in Leviticus 16:29.

Jesus, take pity on us... wade in the water...healing service...penitential service...mysteries of light CD...prayer for reconciliation between Christians, Jews and Muslims...untying of knots exercise of meditation.

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) –16 October
God will see justice done

Jesus in the Gospel encourages us to ‘pray continuously’ and ‘never lose heart’. This persistence in prayer was also a theme of St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) – feast day **15 October** - who empowered people to think big - ‘You pay God a compliment by asking great things of Him’. This is timely because **17 October** is International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Praying on this topic is asking ‘great things’ of God and could be an encouragement to ‘never lose heart’ in the face of the reality of extraordinary poverty throughout the world. (Prayer Service in Monastery of St. Alphonsus at 8.00 p.m. or watch on webcam www.rednuns.com) . Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana when Pope Francis visited Cuba in September 2015 placed the poor at the centre of the discussion and rooted it in the Gospel: “This concern for the poor is in the Gospel, it is within the tradition of the Church, it is not an invention of communism and it must not be turned into an ideology, as has sometimes happened before in the course of history.”



18 October is the feast of St. Luke who was born in Antioch in Syria- now a place of great poverty and oppression - and whose Gospel places the poor and lowly at the heart of the kingdom and the concern of Jesus.

Prayer:



‘Lord God, who chose Saint Luke to reveal by his preaching and writings the mystery of your love for the poor, grant that those who already glory in your name may persevere as one heart and one soul and that all nations may merit to see your salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.’

For the Jewish people the Feast of Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) which takes place from **16-23 October** is a celebration of faith and providence. This ancient festival commemorates the time that the People of Israel spent in the desert living in make-shift tents (something familiar about this) with complete trust that God will provide.

16 October marks the end of the Dublin Theatre Festival. The parish peace and justice team might link up with a local drama group to create a mime on various issues around poverty and possible solutions. These could take place in the lobby of the Church or in the nearby community hall.

Try ‘Justice Shall Flourish’ and ‘My Soul Give Praise’ from **Emmanuel 2017**

God will see justice done... never lose heart...ask great things...the heart of the poor...make-shift tents – eradication of poverty – drama.

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) –23 October
The humble will be exalted

The 90th World Mission Sunday is celebrated on **23 October** and the Gospel is that of the Pharisee and the Publican. The humility of the publican stands out as a ray of light and an example of openness to God's gentle and patient mercy.



Pope Francis teaches us about a measured approach to evangelisation in his World Mission Sunday 2016 message:

‘Faith is God’s gift and not the result of proselytizing; rather it grows thanks to the faith and charity of evangelizers who witness to Christ. ‘

The theme for Mission 2016 - **‘Every Christian is a Missionary’** - links well with the witness of the publican who models the simple and everyday way we can spread the message of Christ through the way we live our lives.

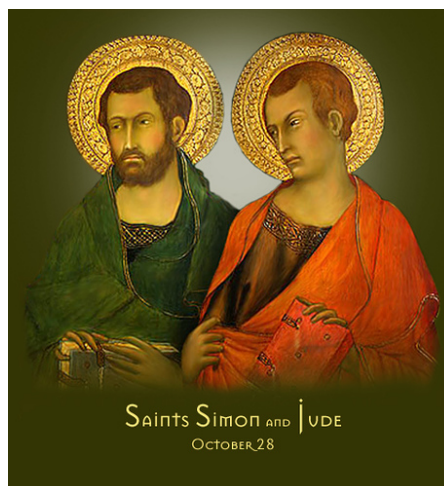
Try ‘Lux Mundi’ from **Emmanuel 2017**

22 October is the anniversary of the inauguration of St. John Paul II who called for a ‘new evangelisation’:

"Look to the future with commitment to a New Evangelization, one that is new in its ardour, new in its methods, and new in its expression" (Address to the Latin American Bishops).

28 October is the Feast of the Saints Simon and Jude about whom little is known except that tradition gives us Jude as Patron of Hopeless cases. The choosing of these ordinary men as apostles by Jesus shows us that those closest to him were not high and mighty people but those to whom people could relate.

The humble will be exalted...growing in faith v proselytising... every Christian is a missionary...new evangelisation...witness to mercy and humility.



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) – 30 October
Today salvation has come to this house



The story of Zacchaeus in today's Gospel is another story of conversion – the beginning of a **new** phase in his life. It culminates in a celebratory meal where Zacchaeus makes a public resolution to be more generous and to make up for the damage he has caused to other people. It is a celebration of the grace that comes from sharing a meal with Jesus and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to which we aspire.

The traditional celebrations of **All Saints Day** reminds us of the communion of saints who are called to that eternal place where they give praise and honour to God. Their lives and stories show us a glimpse of God's goodness and we mark that grace on 1 November. **The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed** is a time honoured tradition when we remember the dead with charity as we ask God to be merciful to them. Graves are decorated at this time and in some traditions meals are celebrated at the graveside as in the ancient past. Try '[do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled](#)' from **Emmanuel 2017**.

Both days are linked with the celebration of **Hallowee'n** (evening before the hallowed day of all saints) when our Celtic ancestors believed that the boundaries between this world and the next were blurred. Ancient sources talk of gates being removed from fields by way of playing a symbolic 'trick' on a neighbour for Oíche na gCleas – the night of the 'tricks'. People went from house to house looking for 'treats' and the generosity of the giver would ensure that good fortune would be with them as they began the **New** Year in the Celtic tradition at Samhain.

30 October marks the beginning of the 5 day Festival of **Diwali** in the Hindu tradition which is celebrated now throughout the world. Many Irish are now invited to celebrate with their Indian neighbours and are learning about this Festival of Lights including fireworks. This time once marked the end of the summer harvest in India and in some areas the beginning of a New Year. The world is indeed getting smaller.

Today salvation has come to this house...new beginnings...new year...new resolutions...celebration of light...remembering the dead



32nd Sunday of the Year (C) – 6 November 2016
He is God not of the dead but of the living

This traditional month of remembrance of the dead offers many opportunities to reflect, to pray and to celebrate. Many communities have a special celebration of the Eucharist or prayer service to remember all who died over the past year. It would be good to link these important moments in the life of the community with the Sunday Eucharist. Often the names of the deceased are on a poster or in a special prayer space - invite people to stop there and light a candle or say a prayer



Bury my body wherever you will, do not be concerned about that. One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord.
(Saint Monica)

This Sunday's Gospel is rooted in the resurrection of the dead and as it is the first of the month this might be the occasion to let people know about the various parish prayer moments for those who are bereaved and the remembrance in faith of those who have died.

We have loved them during life. Let us not abandon them, until we have conducted them by our prayers into the house of the Lord
(Saint Ambrose)



This might also be the day to refer to the new Diocesan Policy for the celebration of funerals in the Church. A summary could be prepared on a leaflet with other helpful website information such as www.litmus.dublindiocese.ie

The members of the Parish Funeral Ministry Team and the Bethany Bereavement Group could be available after Masses to chat with people and distribute helpful material. Intercessions for the dead, the bereaved and the various support ministries might be included in the Prayer of the Faithful. Music Suggestions from Try 'Abide With Me' and 'Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled' from **Emmanuel 2017**

God not of the dead but of the living...annual Mass of remembrance...funeral policy...parish funeral team...Bethany Bereavement Group

33rd Sunday of the Year (C) – 13 November 2016
The sun of righteousness will shine with healing in its rays

This is Prisoners' Sunday and the start of Restorative Justice Week. The quotation from the first reading (Malachi 3:20) is a wonderful gift in itself as we draw to the close of the Jubilee of Mercy. Pope Francis spoke to prisoners in Penitentiary 3 in Ciudad Juárez Mexico – February 2016 - this is an account.

'And then Pope Francis who had looked thoughtful throughout spoke, highlighting how there is no place, beyond the reach of mercy, no space or person it cannot touch. Mercy, he went on to say, reminds us that reintegration does not begin here within these walls; rather it begins "outside" in the streets of the city. Mercy Pope Francis insisted, means learning not to be prisoners of the past. It means believing that things can change. We know that we cannot turn back but I wanted to celebrate with you the Jubilee of Mercy, because it does not exclude the possibility of writing a new story and moving forward. The one who has suffered the greatest pain, he insisted, and we could say "has experienced hell", can become a prophet in society.'



Pope Francis washes the feet of juvenile prisoners in Rome on Holy Thursday 2013

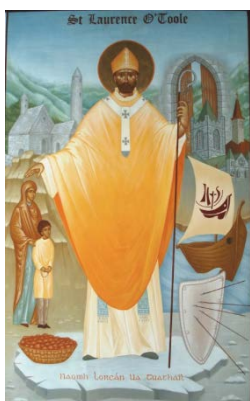
Try 'Justice Shall Flourish' from Emmanuel 2017

How can we highlight Restorative justice Week in our community? We could begin with prayer:

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the activities of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another. To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day. Amen. (Prisons Week Prayer)

14 November is the Feast of our Diocesan Patron – Saint Laurence O'Toole – who



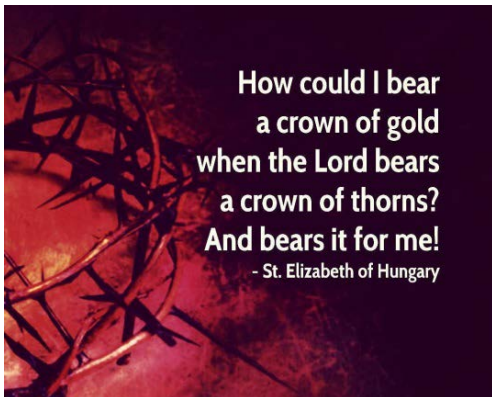
was imprisoned himself as a hostage when a young boy: 'Saint Laurence O'Toole, light of mercy, solas na trócaire, you opened yourself to those who offended you and held you captive. Touch our hearts so that we will become an inclusive community who always leave the door of mercy on the latch in the name of Jesus.' (Prayer to St. Laurence O'Toole for the Jubilee of Mercy).

The sun...with healing in its rays...Pope Francis...prisoners of the past...restorative justice...St. Laurence O'Toole

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (C) - 20 November 2016

Jesus remember me when you come into our kingdom

This is a recent celebration (1925) instituted by Pope Pius XI at a time of the rise of nationalism and secularism throughout the world. The Gospel of Luke 23:35-43 places us at the foot of the cross of Jesus with people standing round, some jeering the 'King of the Jews'. Luke also gives us the tender dialogue of faith between Jesus and one of the criminals which culminates in the phrase – 'Jesus remember me, when you come into your kingdom' which when prayed in the Taizé chant has been a great source of comfort and hope to so many.



It is important to get the balance between the triumphant and the pastoral element of this celebration. Jesus was a 'Servant King', his crown is of thorns and his throne a tree. Music that reflects the quiet dignity of the cross and the power of God's mercy will help to create a prayerful celebration of the victory of Christ over the super-egos of destruction that scar our world today. The Jubilee Chant – Misericordes sicut Pater is very

suitable. Try 'King of Kings' and 'Above All' from **Emmanuel 2017**.

Pope Francis will close the Holy Door of Mercy in St. Peter's Basilica on this day. The parish conclusion of this Jubilee could be marked over the weekend for example:

Friday 18 Nov (Evening) – Taizé Prayer Around the Cross with a focus on the mercy stories of Jesus – confession if practicable as an option.

Saturday 19 Nov – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as appropriate and if possible. The Vigil Mass could easily accommodate the celebration of the Christ the King of Mercy and the end of the Jubilee Year. Try 'Come Home' or 'King of Kings' from **Emmanuel 2017**.



Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2017

Advent was originally a six week period of intensive preparation for Epiphany when Baptism was celebrated widely. In our calendar the Christmas season finishes with the celebration of the Baptism of our Lord which is the Sunday after Epiphany.

Each Sunday has its own richness as we journey through this 'orphan' season. It is difficult to balance the spirit of 'patient waiting' with the busyness of preparations for Christmas. Many Christmas cards offer a greeting of 'peace' inspired by the song of the angels – 'Glory to God...peace to people of good will'. Let us create a haven of peace in our Advent celebrations this year by offering songs, prayers and reflections that inspire calm so that, in the simple final words of the Mass, all will 'go in peace'.

This Advent the readings are from **Cycle A** with some inspirational phrases in the First Readings from the Prophet Isaiah:

First Sunday: 27 November

'there will be no more training for war' (Is.2:5) – 'you must wake up now' (Romans 13:11) – 'stay awake' (Matthew 24: ?)

Second Sunday: 4 December

'the cow and bear make friends, their young lie down together' (Is.11:7) – 'help us all to be tolerant with each other (Romans 15:?) 'Prepare a way for the Lord (Matthew 3:?)



Third Sunday: 11 December

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened (Is.35:5) – 'be patient' (James 5:7) – '

Fourth Sunday: 18 December

"the maiden is with child... whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means 'God is-with-us' " (Is.7:14)

(It is interesting that we use the abbreviation Is. for the Prophet Isaiah and the world is focused at the same time on the movement called IS – Islamic State)



Advent began as a s

