

During the past week, we turned our minds to the USA and the inauguration of Joe Biden as President of a divided and polarised country. I turn my mind back a further 100 years to another American who shed a light in another dark society.

Many mornings in 1918 found Dorothy Day, a 21-year-old, radical, New York reporter, stumbling home to bed, almost drunk, after spending all night out socialising. In the half-light before dawn, she always encountered groups of women hurrying to Mass at St Joseph's church. Sometimes she would follow them inside and watch as they began their day in prayer. It made a huge impression on her, but she was a bit of an anarchist and wasn't ready for religion. In the years that followed she had an affair with a reporter, got pregnant, had an abortion, then moved on to another lover.

When she got pregnant in 1926, Dorothy's new lover insisted she abort this child, too, but she refused. She had read the autobiography of St Therese of Lisieux, and so when her daughter was born, she named her Tamar Theresa. When she took her child to a Catholic church to be baptised, her lover abandoned her. Soon afterwards, Dorothy herself was baptised a Catholic.

Dorothy, the one-time political radical, now looked for a radical way to do good. The answer came when she met a man called Peter Maurin. Dorothy shared his view that the Gospels formed a blueprint for a society where people could truly be co-creators with Christ.

What began as a chat around a kitchen table in 1932 grew into a worldwide movement known as 'The Catholic Worker'. Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin began by founding a newspaper. With Dorothy's journalistic experience, she saw that a newspaper, sold at a penny a copy, would offer solidarity with the workers who were struggling with unemployment and would also be a means of promoting Catholic social teaching. Within two years the paper had a circulation of 150,000.

The second part of the Catholic Worker

programme grew from a belief that Houses of Hospitality should be established, where anyone was welcome to share a meal. By 1936, hundreds were lining up at Dorothy's door every day where there was a pot of soup always on the go and volunteers ready to help out. So great was the demand that entire buildings were rented to accommodate the growing numbers.

Dorothy was also active in the anti-war movement. "Our manifesto," she wrote, "is the Sermon on the Mount."

Throughout the 50 years she spent ministering to the poor, until her death in 1980, Dorothy Day had the deepest conviction that **Christ was at the centre of it all** and that only in him can genuine fulfilment be found. Because of her personal encounter with Jesus all those years before, Dorothy's life changed completely. She went from love of life to love of God and love of others.

She was one of four great Americans - Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr, and Thomas Merton - praised by Pope Francis in his address to the US Congress in 2015. "Her social activism, her passion for justice and for the cause of the oppressed, were inspired by the Gospel, her faith, and the example of the saints," the pontiff said, calling her an icon of the dream of "social justice and the rights of persons".

Today's world seems more divided than for many years. Politicians have pledged to build bridges. Love of neighbour and love of the stranger must be the resolution of President and Politician and Pope and Priest and People. That's our mandate from Christ.

Joe Biden's Love of Irish Poet Seamus Heaney Dates Back to His Teenage Years
"My colleagues always kid me about quoting Irish poets all the time," he once said. "They think I do it because I'm Irish. I do it because they're the best poets."

THE CURE OF TROY

Human beings suffer.
They torture one another. They get hurt and get hard. No poem or play or song Can fully right a wrong
Inflicted and endured.
History says, Don't hope On the side of the grave,
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed for tidal wave
Of justice can rise up
And hope and history rhyme.
So hope for a great sea- change On the far side of re-

Remembered In Mass

Donoughmore



Sat 23rd 7 pm Jimmy Flood, Patricia Cotter. Martin Sheahan (2nd)

Mon 25th 10 am

Tue 26th 10 am

Fri 29th 10 am

Sat 30th 7 pm Mary & Tom O'Neill

Knockea

Sun 24th 11 am Maire Hourigan, Martina Lynch. Mary O'Dwyer (MM)

Wed 27th 10 am

Sun 31st 11 am John Foley. Nora O'Connell (MM)

Roxboro

venge. Believe that a further shore Is reachable from here.
Believe in miracles.
And cures and healing wells.
Call miracle self-healing,
The utter self revealing Double-take of feeling.
If there's fire on the mountain And lightning and storm
And a god speaks from the sky
That means someone is hearing The outcry and the birth-cry
Of new life at its term.
It means once in a lifetime
That justice can rise up
And hope and history rhyme.
by Seamus Heaney

Christian Unity Jan.18th-25th Abide in my Love and you shall bare much fruit. (John5,1-17. To imagine a world based on insight, co-

Parish of Donoughmore/ Knockea/Roxboro



Fr Tom Mangan PP
087-2348226

Fr Dave Kennedy, weekend assistant
dkrchurches@eircom.net

Facebook: DKR Parish Limerick

Sacristan

Terry 087-6686050

The Eircode for St. Patrick's Church, Donoughmore is **V94 V6T3**.

The Eircode for St. Patrick's Church, Knockea is **V94 D938**.

operation, equality, wisdom and compassion, instead of ego, greed, profit, power and division.

Catholics Schools week Bishop

Leahy will celebrate Mass next Wednesday 27th Jan. at 10am .

Grandparents Day, this can be assessed live on

www.limerickcathedral.com/live-stream

Our Sincere sympathy to the families of Nancy Godfrey, Tommy O'Grady, whose funerals took place in Knockea during the week. Funeral of Kitty Wixted (mother of Mary O'Brien, Bushy Is.) took place today Saturday at Caherline Church, Jimmy Maher funeral tomorrow Sunday in Donoughmore 1pm and John Hartnett Abbeyfeale dad of Caroline Nash (Bushy Is) May they rest in Peace.

Parish envelopes can be dropped into the post box at the Church house (office) Donoughmore and thanks for your continuing support to the Parish . *Keep safe*

Keep safe everyone