

Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely, 28 August 2022

Jesus says, ‘for anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted’ (Lk 14:12). If we throw an eye back over the history of nations, we will easily see tyrants and dictators and autocrats crash unceremoniously after rising to great heights.

In researching for this article, I learned that prolonged periods in power effect the brain of autocrats. The distortion of the brain and mind happens with unconstrained power.

Firstly, there is extreme narcissism i.e. self-importance, egotism and selfishness. This is where the person sees the interests of himself (herself) and what he controls as identical. What happens to his enterprise is taken personally.

Secondly, there’s a sense of specialness and superiority that makes the person feel god-like. A 52 foot statue to St Vladimir was erected outside the Kremlin in 2016. Julius Caesar had made himself a demi-god during his lifetime and had statues erected to himself. Also Kim Jong Ung of Korea did likewise. Similarly with Saddam Hussein of Iraq All tyrants finish up by putting huge statues to themselves because they feel so much above the rest of humanity. That leads to contempt, a contempt with which they treat their own people even those close to them. With that contempt comes an over evaluation of their own judgement. When plans go wrong, they respond with extreme rage by blaming others and worse may follow. You don’t have to look to the leaders of nations to find autocrats i.e. people who want to be absolute rulers. They are in our communities and homes and workplaces. They are people with an ego.

It was captured very humorously in the comedy, *Keeping Up Appearances*. Mrs. Hyacinth Bucket attempted to prove her social superiority, and to gain standing with those she considered upper class. Her attempts were constantly hampered by her lower class extended family, whom she was desperate to hide. Much of the humour comes from the conflict between Hyacinth's vision of herself and the reality of her underclass background. She was forever battling to protect her social credibility. What are the tell tail signs of autocrats? It’s All About Me: the sign that people will most easily recognise when in a social situation is that the egotistical person must be the centre of attention. The conversation

simply can’t flow freely because the egotist constantly breaks in to make the point about herself. There may be an excessive use of the pronouns "I," "me" and "myself." She must be the center of attention at all times and will go to great lengths to put the focus on herself. You may find that you spend more time listening to her talk than saying anything yourself.

Secondly, it’s All About the Bling: it’s normal to want enough money to meet our needs and to buy nice things. For the egotistical person, that concept is taken to an extreme. He will spend a lot of time, money and attention on dressing well and taking care of his body. He buys nice clothes and expensive things so that he can appear more important and successful than he actually is.

Thirdly, the Potential to Be Violent: hell has no fury like a completely self-absorbed person who has her ego insulted. Having an inflated ego can cause a person to act violently and become aggressive. If an egotistical person feels that she is not getting the attention and recognition she deserves, she is quite likely to react negatively. Finally, Gross Exaggeration: the egotist may also exaggerate excessively or lie, sometimes to the point where the claim is too outlandish to be true. Often this is after others make statements about themselves.

Be careful that you are not egotistical; and **be more careful of meeting people who are egotistical and of how you protect your welfare in their midst.** They can play havoc on your life. JK



The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1 September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season of Creation is marked throughout the

Christian world from 1 September to 4 October (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. . In this Season of Creation, this symbol of God’s Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation, to the voices of those who suffer the impacts of climate change, to the voices of those who hold generational wisdom about how to live gratefully within the limits of the land. These are voices of the Earth. The global Christian family is called to awaken to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and with each other and to encourage our parish communities to do the same, “for we know that things can change!” (Laudato Si’, 13)

Remembered In Mass		
Donoughmore		
Sat 27th August	7pm	Megan Fleming. Annie Fahey
Mon.29th	10m	
Tues 30th	10am	No Mass
Fri 2nd	10am	No Mass
Sat 3rd	7pm	
Knockea		
Sun 28th	11am	Tom Madigan
Wed 31st	10am	
Sun 4th Sept	11am	
Roxboro		



Parish of Donoughmore/ Knockea/Roxboro



Fr Tom Mangan PP
087-2348226
dkrparish@gmail.com
Website, dkrparish.ie
Facebook: DKR Parish Limerick
Sacristan
Terry 087-6686050
The Eircode for St. Patrick’s Church, Donoughmore is **V94 V6T3**.
Knockea is **V94 D938**.**Pastoral Area**
Donoughmore /Knockea/ Roxboro,
Queen of Peace, Holy Family

email ballyneetymentshed@gmail.com as soon as possible but no later than Friday 16th September 2022. This is to facilitate the preparation of a programme of events. It is **FREE** to participate and attend. All are welcome Regards Seamus Fitzgerald

Recently deceased Sympathy to the family of Gerard (Ger) Glynn Drombanna ,funeral Mass was Friday at Donoughmore. To the family of Sinead Johnson (nee Sherlock) Ballyunion Co. Kerry and Parteen Co. Clare, funeral Mass today, Sat. at Pateen Church May they rest in Peace **Weekly Lotto** €1,600 winning No. 4,8,16,25 No winners Lucky dips 1.Noreen O’Donoghue 2.Kathleen Kirby 3.Vincent & Josephine Hayes 4.Becky & Trevor 5.Gerard Woods 6.Brian Delaney Next Jackpot €1,700 Draw Tues.30th August The Cat’s Cradle 9.30pm Thank you

Good luck to all our students in our Parish as they return to school We have extra traffic on our roads so lets be ever more careful **Birthday greetings** to Alice O’Connell on her 92nd Birthday this Monday. **Welcome** to Fr Eddie Condra to our 11am Mass this weekend **Culture Night 2022** Ballyneety Men’s Shed together with Ballyneety Community Association are hosting a Culture Night which will take place on Friday 23rd September 2022 in “Courthouse” Ballyneety at 7.30 pm. The programme will consist of the following: - . Singing groups and solo performers . Recitations. Musicians as groups and solo performers. Visual Arts display. If you are interested in performing or displaying your latest arts masterpiece, please

