

The Heavenly Highway. 11 Sept 2022

The story of the Prodigal Son could also be renamed the Story of the Lost Son, or the Story of the Dutiful Son. But I'd like to retitile it, the Story of the Merciful and Compassionate Father. Preachers will use this parable to entice and persuade people to move away from their sins and turn towards a forgiving God. I also see this parable as a template of our final journey into the arms of God. It depicts how things could unfold after we die and step onto the highway to heaven.

There is one thing I am sure of, I want this gospel to be read at my funeral. It is not one of the prescribed gospels for funerals, but I still want it. I want it for two reasons.

I see parallels between myself and the prodigal son. I can imagine myself mustering up a few words to say to God as I make the walk up to the pearly gates. I will be happy to use the words of the prodigal son if I can remember them: "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" (Lk 15:18-19). I'm expecting I can remember it because I say the Jesus prayer nearly every day: 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner'. That was the plan the prodigal son had hatched up, but look what happened.

"While the prodigal son was 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" (Lk 15:20). Wouldn't it be nice to look up to the pearly gates and see a heavenly figure make a similar journey to each of us with arms wide open?

Back to the parable. Immediately, his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son" (Lk 15:21). He never got to say, 'treat me as one of your paid servants'. I suspect it would sound somewhat inappropriate, out of place when enraptured in the unconditional and overwhelming love of his father.

In case the preacher at my funeral feels the need to muster up a few kind words to say about me, don't. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, 'Any honours that come our way are only stolen from him to whom alone they really belong, the Lord God who sent us'. All I ask of him is to say thanks for the many blessings that came my way in life, blessings that came from

God above and from friend and foe here on earth. Again in St Luke's gospel, I find further reassurance of God's mercy. The repentant thief said, "'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom'. 'Indeed, I promise you', Jesus replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise'" (Lk 23:42-43). All that is asked, is to face God with a contrite heart. St. Therese of Lisieux writes about God's mercy after death. "Our Lord is very just; if he doesn't judge our good actions, he will not judge our bad one's either. For those who offer themselves to love, I don't think there will be a judgement at all... If you want divine justice, you will get divine justice. The soul gets exactly what it expects from God... If you only **look into God's eyes seeking only mercy, expecting only mercy, you will receive only mercy**... In the evening of this life, I shall appear before you with empty hands, for I do not ask you Lord, to count my works."

No matter what sins we have committed, all of us Catholics and Protestants alike can go before the Lord with empty hands neither boasting of merits nor worrying about wrong doings. Rather, we trust unreservedly in the saving mercy of God shown in Christ. JK

We belong to one another: We now know that the sacred community of the universe is a single interconnected web of life emanating from the creative energy of God



Franciscan Missionaries of Mary

will be visiting us next weekend at both of our Mases Sr. Nuala will be making an appeal on behalf of their missionary work, they work in 75 different countries among the poorest and most disadvantaged peoples

Remembering Fr Dave, on Sat. eve 24th Sept. at our 7pm Mass we will welcome Fr. Dave's family to our Mass, We hope you can join us to remember him and to thank his family for his presence amongst us for along number of year's ,tea and refreshments after mass in Church house.

Choirs We welcome back our choirs as they start back again to our churches

Recently deceased Sympathy to the family of Bill Kenney, Drombanna & Killaloe Clare & Lixnaw Kerry, funeral at St Flannan's church Killaloe, to the family of Michael Gerard White Crossagalla, funeral St John's Cathedral to the family of John O'Connell., the family of Patricia Dillon Ballyclough /Ardagh, funeral arrangements later. May they rest in Peace

Remembered In Mass

Donoughmore



Sat 10th Sept	7pm	Parish intentions
Mon.12th	10m	Henry & Elizabeth Green
Tues 13th	10am	No Mass
Fri 16th Knockea	10am 7pm	Willie Dooley (MM)
Sat 17th	7pm	Tom & Annie Cowman Michael Lane(4th)
Knockea		
Sun 11th	11am	Brian Clancy. Dan Godfrey (5th)
Wed 14th	10am	
Sun 18th	11am	Betty Gleeson
Roxboro		

South Liberties Fun day Sunday will now be Sept.18th not tomorrow 11th due to the predicted weather kiddies train, mobile pet farm, games BBQ, inflatable dart board & free games & prizes in the gym for the kiddies & free teas / coffees. Asking for donations for buns/cakes to be delivered to the club house on the day Funday time 2pm -5pm

Drombanna Community singers have now returned to Drombanna Day Care Centre on Wed. Nights 7.30 for music & sing a long, all are welcome, an easy comfortable get-together, you can also email Angela at drombannacommunitysingers@gmail.com
Culture Night 2022 Ballyneety Men's Shed to-

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

gether with DKR Community Association are hosting a Culture Night which on Friday 23rd Sept. 2022 in "Courthouse" Ballyneety at 7.30 pm. The programme will consist of the following: - Singing groups, solo performers. Recitations. Musicians Visual Arts display. If you are interested in performing or displaying your latest arts masterpiece, please email ballyneety-mensshed@gmail.com as soon as possible but no later than Fri. 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

Weekly Lotto €1,000 no winner winning No. 19,20,21,22. Lucky dips 1. Frances O'Brien 2.N. Wade 3. Majella Lynch 4. Ger Keary 5.Eileen Skehan 6.Rachel Godfrey Next Jackpot €1,100 Draw Tues.13th Sept. The Cat's Cradle 9.30pm Thank you

