

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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3rd Sunday of Lent (B)

7th March, 2021

Gospel John 2: 13-25



WHO IS MY FATHER?

WHO IS JESUS?

WHERE DO I BELONG?

The recent public outcry of some people, born outside of marriage, alerts us to the deep yearning in human hearts to experience and to express our basic enduring relationships. It is important too, for all of us, to have others recognise our identity and the core of what makes us who we are. Not to know who our parents were is like missing part of our DNA address, a gap in our genetic history.

Homelessness is another deprivation in life's story and it is increasing nationally. Thankfully, services are developing which provide nourishing food, daily health care and stable shelter for many who have no base with an address that they can call home. Our address becomes almost part of us: We become identified with it. It enables others to contact us and allows us to contact them with the expectation of a reply. Imagine being a person whose only identity is a P.P.S. number. We are more. Each of us is a unique child of God.

Sunday's gospel tells the story of Jesus driving the money changers out of the Temple. The drama of the whipping story may distract us from the central point that Jesus was making especially to the listening religious leaders. For them, God was present in all creation but was especially focused in the Temple. It was an important contact point for them for key events in their lives. It was His home, God's address among us. It did not belong to them. It was the Father's house and as His Beloved Son, Jesus was claiming possession. Indeed, Jesus asserted that in the new normal, He Himself would be the focus of God's presence among us, the new Temple as it were. The religious leaders understood what He was claiming. The choice for them was to believe Him or eliminate Him. They chose the latter.



We face a similar choice. We can claim our inheritance as beloved children of the Father, sisters and brothers of Jesus and of one another. Or we can exclude God from our lives and live impoverished forever, not experiencing the blessings the Father offers us through Jesus, at home with Him through prayer in the Father's house.

Fr. Tom Clancy

LENTEN TALKS

Looking to the Future with

Tuesday, 9th March, at 7.30 pm,

Our Lenten talks continue next week with a presentation by **Dr. Denise Gabuzda**, a teacher of Physics and Astronomy at University College Cork and a member of the Cork Quaker Meeting.

How can we retain hope even in the turbulent times of crisis through which we are living? To allow hope to grow and sustain motion into a more positive future, we must nurture our ability to imagine a variety of positive outcome, even if they may not seem the most likely ones. There are many possible outcomes to the planetary emergencies we are facing, and our collective thoughts, prayers and actions can affect their likelihoods. Hope can be found in a great variety of places, from our inherent spirituality and sociability, to our instinctive desire for equality and social justice, to emerging science and technology. Denise will explore these themes in the context of the Lenten season.

Email faithinactionballineaspig@gmail.com for the Zoom link if not already registered.

16th March: Mary Elmes – The Quiet Heroine – Ms Anne Twomey

Faith in Action Group

SPRING DUES - 2021

If you have not received a Spring Dues envelope in the post and you would like to contribute, dues envelopes are now available in the Church.

Your contribution can be handed in to either of the Priest's houses or into the letter box in the Parish Office.

Thanking you.