

Church of the Holy Spirit Ballyroan

22nd of October 2023

Twenty Ninth - Sunday in Ordinary Times

Our Gospel reading is from Matthew Chapter. 22:15-21.

The Gospel reading describes how the Jewish religious leaders have set a trap for Jesus, by asking him is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor? If he says no, they can accuse him of rebelling against Rome, if he says yes, he could be discredited in the eyes of his followers who are fed up with all the taxes to be paid. Jesus responds by asking to see a coin that is used to pay the tax. Interestingly, Jesus did not possess money of his own, and as a wandering preacher, neither did he have land or a home. The answer he gives is that people should give to the emperor the things that belong to the emperor and to God the things that belong to God. Jesus is not drawing a line between politics and religion; he does see God and Caesar as two separate powers that can justify what they demand from the people. All that is created belongs to God, Jesus' priority is life not religion, Jesus cares about everyone, particularly the poor and his message is that we all belong to God. While there may be two parallel authorities, dividing people's loyalty, God is above any emperor. There is relevance for us today, despite what those with influence or who have leadership roles in our society dictate, as people of faith we must resist any power that might try to limit our conscience or freedom to live out the Gospel message. While our Christian faith is not identified with any partisan political group, this does not mean that our faith should be relegated to a private arena. As Jesus challenged the leaders of his day, we too need to stand up for the values that defend the poor, the vulnerable and the dehumanization of any person or group.

What do these words mean for you? 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God that things that are God's'.

By Deacon Frank Browne

Ref. José A. Pagola, 'A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew 2012, & www.tarsus.ie.



Due to weather damage the front doors and windows in the Ruah Centre need upgrading badly. This is coming in at a substantial cost of over €27,000. The Ruah management committee are delighted to announce that €2881 was raised last weekend thanks to the coffee mornings held. What a wonderful achievement and a special thanks to **Bernie Drennan** and **Maureen Murray** who always work tirelessly to make everything they do a success. Thank you Both.



Active retirement singers meet
this Sunday in the Ruah Centre

29th of Oct @ 7.30

All are welcome to what is sure to be a fun
night of music, laughter, tea and coffee!!!



Christian Meditation Ireland are hosting a **Meditation Meet-Up** for all who are interested in Christian Meditation or in finding out more about it. It will take place in **Balally Parish Centre**, Dublin **D16 E032** on **Saturday, 21 October 2023** from **10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** with Guest Speaker **Dr Noel Keating**.
See www.christianmeditation.ie



Please remember your prayers all those who passed away recently from our parish. We remember their families and friends at this difficult time.

"May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen"

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of **Catholic Marriage Encounter** in Ireland a weekend has been scheduled for November 10 to 12. Venue: The Focolare Centre, Prosperous, Co. Kildare. Eircode W91 XR23. This weekend is available to all married couples at no fixed charge beyond the deposit of €50 per couple and a voluntary donation.

Talks on the Mystics

by Fr. Brendan Comerford SJ



Saturdays 4th Nov to 16th Dec in John Sullivan Room

10am - 12.15pm

A series of talks on seven different Christian mystics: St. Catherine of Siena, Julian of Norwich, St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Pierre Favre, St. Edith Stein and Pope St. John XXIII.

No need to register. Hope to see you there!

No fee. Donations welcomed.

Niamh Murray (Soprano) & Accompanist Ronan Murray

'Magical Melodies & Memories for a Winter's Afternoon'

A programme of great songs, fun and laughter

Monday 27th November 2023 @ 12.05pm at the Ruah Centre



Tickets €10 at the Ruah Centre
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
~ 10.30-11.15am ~

Concert in aid of our Pastoral Centre and bringing great music to our parish.

Mass Intentions 21th OCT— 27TH OCT

Sat 7pm: Michéal Doyle (A) Tom Shine (A) Seamus Murphy (A) Alice Cleary (A) Hugh O' Neill (M.M.)

Sun 10am: Nancy O' Connell (R.I.P.) Daniel McNulty (A) Kathleen Ryan (A) Jerry and Kathleen Kelliher (A)

Sun 12pm: Joan Horan (A) Phil Keane (M.M.) Angela & Tom Lenard (A) Michael Walsh (A)

Monday : Noreen Byrne (A) Catherine & James Kelly (A) Mary Traynor (A) Philip Cairns Jr. (A)

Tuesday: Tony Flannery (R.I.P.) Special Intention (Living)

Wednesday: Get Well soon to Kathleen & Catherine Gillespie. Get Well soon to Ann Crooke

Thursday: Nuala Brosnan (A)

Friday: Sr. Maria Minogue (A)

Parish Information

Parish Priest: Father Michael Murtagh

Deacon: Frank Browne

Parish Secretary: Mary McDade

Email: ballyroanparish@gmail.com

Parish Office: 01 4947303

Parish Office Opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Mass Times

Monday - Friday: 10am

Saturday: 7pm

Sunday: 10am & 12am