



24th Sunday of the Year 12th September 2021

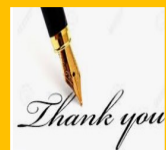
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MASS TIMES AT CLONARD

Public Mass & Masses via Webcam

Sunday (Vigil Sat- 7.30pm), 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, and 12.30pm.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri.
7.00am, 9.30am and 6.15pm.
Thursday (Novena) 7.00am, 9.30am, 6.15pm and 8.00pm.
Saturday 7.00am, 9.30am & 12.00 Noon.



We thank you for last week's Collection which came to
£1,626 for Clonard, £685 for the Bishop's collection.
Also for your kind donations, online and by post.

Feast Days this week:

Tuesday 14th September: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Wednesday 15th September: Our Lady of Sorrows

Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living Commencing Monday, 20 September, hosted by Drumalis via Zoom. Applications are now being accepted for the third intake of this popular one-year programme for those who want a closer relationship with God. Living out faith isn't easy against the backdrop of our fast-paced, noisy and instantaneous culture. The course will take place over 21 Monday evening sessions from 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm via Zoom. For further information, please contact 028 28276455/ 28272196 during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9 am – 5 pm) or email maura@drumalis.co.uk. Details are also available on the Drumalis website - <http://www.drumalis.co.uk>

GOD'S WORD IN September 2021

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 12 September 2021

Today's Readings

Is 50:5-9; Ps 114; Jm 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

The crucial question

Today, Mark's Gospel moves from the section dealing with Jesus' ministry in Galilee to that dealing with his journey to Jerusalem. But before he heads south to Jerusalem, Jesus travels north to the villages surrounding Caesarea Philippi.

On the way, he puts a key question to his disciples: "Who do people say that I am?" From the very beginning of his Gospel, Mark has identified Jesus as Messiah and Son of God. The disciples have struggled to recognise Jesus' true identity, as have the people of Galilee. Now, before the journey to Jerusalem and the fate that awaits him there, Jesus attempts to get the disciples to acknowledge who he really is.

In response, they list what people are saying about him. He is John the Baptist returned from the dead. He is Elijah returned from heaven. He is a prophet. Now he asks them directly: "Who do you say that I am?" Peter seems to give the correct answer: "You are the Christ (or Messiah)." It sounds right. The only problem is that Peter is identifying Jesus with the royal, conventional and powerful Messiah of Jewish expectation. Peter still cannot recognise Jesus as the Suffering Messiah.

Now Jesus begins to talk about what lies ahead of him in Jerusalem. He is trying to get the disciples to see that he is not a powerful and glorious Messiah, but one who will suffer and die. In response, Peter "remonstrates" with Jesus. The Greek text reads that Peter "took hold" of Jesus. This earns him the sharpest rebuke ever given by Jesus to anyone. Jesus calls Peter "Satan." There may well be a play on the Hebrew word *sātān*, which means a "stumbling block." If Peter causes Jesus to stumble in fulfilling God's plan, then he will play into the hands of Satan. What Jesus wants is that Peter and the other disciples "get behind" him to support and follow him - not get in his way.

A terrible fate awaits Jesus. Similarly, a difficult future lies in store for those who follow him as disciples. Jesus sets out the conditions for being a disciple. It involves "denying oneself" and "taking up the cross" and following Jesus. Denial of self doesn't mean small, simple Lenten penances. It means putting discipleship above everything else in one's life. "Taking up the cross" means a willingness to follow Jesus in the midst of suffering and even to the point of death.

Courtesy of REALITY magazine



Season of Creation: Restoring Our Common Home

A prayer for our earth from Laudato Si'

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.
Resources prepared by the Laudato Si' Working Group are now available on www.catholicbishops.ie/2021/07/21/season-of-creation-2021/

