

# St Sylvester's Parish Newsletter



Very Rev Kevin Moore, Moderator  
Tel. 01 549 6615

Mary Kirk, Parish Pastoral Worker  
Tel. 087 457 0981

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

27 September 2020

## Gospel Reflection

As a consequence of all the Covid-19 restrictions, many people found themselves turning to nature. There was a surge of interest in gardening. We tended to flower beds, planted seeds, started herb gardens. Lots of people commented that they noticed the birds singing for the first time in years. In the midst of challenging times, we found ourselves tuning in to the wonder of God's creation all around us.

When life returns to 'normal', can we retain this sense of wonder and awe? In this Season of Creation, we are invited to discover the presence of God in creation, to give thanks for the gift of the earth, and to change our ways so that we may live in harmony with creation. This requires us to be constantly conscious of how we are living — to not just have good intentions but to follow through in our actions.

In today's gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons who are asked to go and work in their father's vineyard. The first son initially refuses, but then thinks better of it and gets to work. While the second son has good intentions, he doesn't follow through.

When it comes to caring for the earth, good intentions are not enough. Our actions matter. When we emerge from these challenging times, let us use the Season of Creation to reflect on how we can do better — to reconnect with God's beautiful creation and do all we can to love and preserve it.

Triona Doherty  
trionad@gmail.com

## Arrangements In Response To Government Directives Regarding The Covid-19 Virus

- **Sunday & Weekday Masses Suspended**  
Level 3 restrictions have led to the suspension of public worship and no Masses or Services will take place in Dublin churches except for weddings and funerals.
- **Sunday Masses on Webcam in the Parish Cluster**  
While Dublin is at Level 3, online Sunday Masses will be available locally on Saturdays at 6:00pm in Yellow Walls Parish [www.yellowwallsparish.ie](http://www.yellowwallsparish.ie) and on Sundays at 11:00am in Portmarnock Parish [www.portmarnockparish.ie](http://www.portmarnockparish.ie).
- **Weekday Masses on Webcam in the Parish Cluster**  
Online weekday Mass will be from Yellow Walls parish at 10:00am from Monday to Friday.
- **Other Online Weekday Masses**  
Weekday Mass is also available at 10:30am in the Pro-Cathedral [www.procathedral.ie](http://www.procathedral.ie) and on the RTÉ News Now channel. A comprehensive list of Churches with scheduled Mass times is available from <https://www.churchservices.tv/>.
- **Church Opening Hours for Private Prayer**  
As of now, St Sylvester's Church will be open both morning and afternoon for private prayer. Please exercise physical distancing when visiting the Church. See [www.malahideparish.ie](http://www.malahideparish.ie) for any updates.

## Parish Notices

### Mass Intentions: September 27th — October 4th

**Sun:** Nancy Bolger (6th A); Maire Colleran (A); Catherine Condron (A); Barry Falvey (A); Des Fay (A); Des McDunphy (A); Kay O'Connor (A); Intentions of Sr Teresia Anne; The deceased members of the Verjans O'Halloran family; Sr Joan Woods (1st A). **Next Sun:** Mary Casey (A); May & Paddy Kelly (A); Ita Mallin (A); Neil McAllister (A); Pearl McCue (A); William & Maureen Mooney (A); Nora O'Dea (A); Una O'Hara (A); Denis & Kay Tennant (A); Paddy Smith (1st A); Olive Vaughan (3rd A).

### Recent Bereavement

We extend our sympathy to the family of Matthew Mahon whose funeral took place during the week.

### Zoom Family Rosary

Come and join to pray the Family Rosary on Zoom every Saturday evening at 6:00pm. The Family Rosary lasts for 20 minutes. It starts with a short two-minute video followed by the Rosary, which is led by parents and prayed by children from participating families. It's a great opportunity to meet and pray the Rosary with families from different parts of the world. To join the Zoom Family Rosary, please follow the link: <http://bit.ly/ZoomFamilyRosary>. For more information, email: [paulmartinderry@gmail.com](mailto:paulmartinderry@gmail.com).

### ALONE Support Line for Older People

ALONE, the organisation that supports older people, provides a national support line for older people who are facing difficulties relating to Covid-19 restrictions. Open 7 days a week, 8:00am — 8:00pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

## Parish Notices — Cont'd

### Collections Via The Parish Office OR The Donate Button

September 20th: First Collection: €195. for the Diocesan Common Fund which supports priests of the Dublin diocese. Second Collection: €65 to SHARE supporting diocesan administration which supports all parishes and assists low-income parishes. We know that the Church is not alone in financial uncertainty as many people are also facing huge financial uncertainty in their own personal lives. For those who can afford to, we ask if you might consider donating to the First or Second Collections that normally take place on a Sunday. You can do so by placing your contribution in the boxes at the back of the Church or by getting in touch with the Parish Office by phone (01 845 1244) or by e-mail (stsylvesters@malahideparish.ie) or else by using the DONATE button on the Parish homepage [www.malahideparish.ie](http://www.malahideparish.ie). In these times of uncertainty and financial difficulty, we thank all who have been in a position to continue their contributions to the Sunday Collections and to the running of the Parish. It is very much appreciated. *Thank you.*

### CROSSCARE Envelopes

CROSSCARE Envelopes for the collection that was supposed to take place last weekend are still available in the Church or office. CROSSCARE needs all the help it can get to support those most in need in our Diocese.

## Diocesan Safeguarding Day 2020

### **Letter from Archbishop Martin**

Sunday, September 27th, is Diocesan Safeguarding Day. The safety and protection from abuse of the children and vulnerable members of Archdiocese is a particular priority of all of us. This year, we face a different set of challenges and we do so in a situation of considerable uncertainty.

You will be aware that it has been necessary to reduce the number employed by the Diocese including a number of people employed in the Child Safeguarding and Protection Service. However, our commitment to Safeguarding and to the support of victim/survivors of abuse remains undiminished. We need to consider the implications of working with less and the opportunities this presents to look at how we share what we have.

Given the uncertainty surrounding bringing people together, we will have to consider how best we approach things like delivering safeguarding training. Information technology presents us with new opportunities, while also presenting challenges for those not used to using computers.

There is a third uncertainty which I wish to address. I cannot say for how much longer I will serve as your Archbishop. As I near the end of my time with you, I want to say a particular thank you for all of the work you have been doing to make the Church in Dublin a safer place for children and for vulnerable adults. Our parish clergy, already under pressure due to declining numbers, have had to accept additional responsibilities in this area, such as ensuring that those involved in public ministry are vetted. I wish to thank also the hundreds of parish safeguarding representatives and the thousands who have attended safeguarding training. I wish to thank all of our parishioners who have kept faith with us through this difficult time.

I wish to especially acknowledge the courage of those who have spoken of their experiences of abuse in the Church. Their stories have been difficult for us to hear but they have helped us to face up to the truth and we must honour their contribution by making our parishes, not just safe places, but also welcoming and nurturing places for all children and vulnerable persons.

I ask you to remember those who were abused and to pray for them.

† **Diarmuid Martin**  
**Archbishop of Dublin**

## Our Parish

### Parish Office

Open Monday to Friday: 10:00am — 12:30pm. You can also contact the Parish Office by e-mail: [stsylvesters@malahideparish.ie](mailto:stsylvesters@malahideparish.ie) or telephone: 01 845 1244.

### Parish Centre

The Centre is returning to normal with hygiene procedures and new guidelines in place to ensure your safety. It has great facilities for meetings or training sessions. Contact Sharon O'Sullivan, Centre Manager at 086 049 2369 or e-mail [sharon@malahideparishcentre.com](mailto:sharon@malahideparishcentre.com).

### Parish Café

The Parish Café would love to welcome you as their guest and serve you a lovely cup of coffee and a nice snack. If out and about and considering a snack or a coffee please consider the 'Parish Café'. The Café also has convenient outdoor facilities. Some new guidelines, practices and hygiene procedures are in place to ensure your safety and enjoyment while taking time out for a snack or to meet up with a friend.

## Special Notice

### Bethany Bereavement

The Malahide Bethany Bereavement Support Group continues to offer support to those who have been bereaved during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our weekly 10:30am Monday Bereavement Support Group has been conducted online since April and it will continue to be held online until we are ready to meet again safely in person. We welcome anyone who would like to join our on-line Monday morning group. Please contact us at 087 793 6189 to find out more. If you would prefer to chat to a trained Bethany volunteer, we are also available to provide listening support.