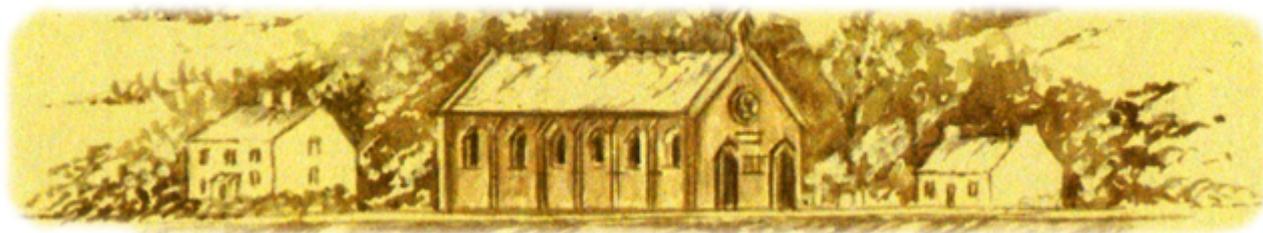


ST PATRICK'S AND ST BRIGID'S GLENARIFFE



25th Sunday in Ordinary time

11th September 2022



“Have mercy on me God, in your Kindness”

Although the civil regulations may have relaxed, the church regulations remain unchanged. Face masks must be worn during mass Hands should be sanitised on entry to the church. Please follow the one-way system.

WEEKDAY MASSES Monday – Thursday 10am, Friday 7.30pm.

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday Vigil 7.00pm, Sunday 10.00am

FINANCE: Sincere thanks for last Sunday's Collections

Please note the Collection Box is at the back of the church (left-hand side)

DECEASED: Mary Jordan, Belfast,

ANNIVERSARIES: Kathleen Connaughton, Martin O'Boyle, Sean McAuley Archie McIntosh, Paddy McAllister, Seamus Kerr, Cassie McNaughton, , Mary Murray



1. Given that these parables are only found in one gospel, it is a tribute to their immense power as stories that they have been central to Christian imagination down the centuries. When we remember that the only stories or incidents from the time of Jesus's public ministry that are equally well remembered are the Good Samaritan story (Lk 10) and the Zacchaeus incident (Lk 17) - and these too are only found in Luke - we get an insight into one of the key messages of Luke's preaching.

*God is mercy, God is forgiveness, God is reconciliation,
God is peace, and God is love.*

2. And when we gather as Christians, this is clearly something we want to hear: we desire mercy, forgiveness, a fresh start, and a welcome home. How we know that we want to hear it is the way we listen and react to this gospel.

3. That leaves us with a question: if this is a central message of Jesus - and it is - why is it not a message that people who are not Christians link with Christianity? This discrepancy between 'our core-message' and 'perceptions of us' reveals something very important to us. Jesus not only came to reveal the Father's love, but sent us his Spirit so that we would become agents of reconciliation. He came to bring us peace, but called us to become peacemakers. He came to seek out the lost, but calls us to welcome the outcasts and the poor. The message of the gospel is always two-sided: he reconciles us, we must reconcile others. Jesus is the centre of reconciliation in the universe; his followers must be little local centres of reconciliation throughout the universe.

Alas, we are better at seeking reconciliation for ourselves than being reconcilers; better at wanting peace than being peacemakers; happier at being welcomed home than offering a welcome to the stranger.

4. Where can we see this two-sided message of reconciliation in a nut-shell? In the 'Our Father': we pray 'forgive us as we forgive those who trespass against us: Yet we are very quick to think of how we need to ask God for his forgiveness; how often do we think of our need to reconcile others?

5. We have just read three stories about the nature of God; but they are also challenges to our nature.