

ST PATRICK'S AND ST BRIGID'S GLENARIFFE



Sixth Sunday of Year A

12th February 2023



They are happy who follow God's Law

Although the civil regulations may have relaxed the church regulations remain unchanged due to the return of Covid in the community. To help limit the spread of the virus face coverings should be worn during mass. Hands should be sanitized on entry to the church. Please follow the one-way system.

WEEKDAY MASSES No Mass Monday and Tuesday.

Wednesday & Thursday 10am Friday 7.30pm

Saturday: Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes:

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father in heaven, grant our brothers and sisters comfort in their suffering. Give them courage when afraid, patience when afflicted, hope when dejected, and when alone assure them of the prayerful support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECEASED: Gerry Esler, Broughshane

ANNIVERSARIES:

Eddie Maskey, Sean McAuley, Danny McNaughton, Kelly & Greg Swider, Roy Nulty, Evlyn Black, Robert McIlhatton, Peggy McDonnell, Margaret Reddington, Patsy Mullan, Mick & Nellie Kinney, Mary & Neil McCashin, Mary O'Neill, Charlie & Margaret Mooney

The heart of religion

This list of some of Jesus' sayings give an indication of what is important to him. He states the religious tradition of the people when he says that he has not come to abolish the old religion, and that religion must go much deeper and be an affair of the heart. He asks for forgiveness and reconciliation when he speaks about leaving a gift at the altar to go for reconciliation. He commends marriage, and faithfulness in marriage, in his views on divorce. He believes in the respect for sexuality that is shown in not using a person. This collection of Jesus' sayings form a background to how he lived his life himself. He lived out these sayings in many of the events of his life, which we hear about on other Sundays. The Sermon on the Mount, of which this is part, is the backdrop to much of Jesus' life and mission, a sort of vision statement for his life and ministry.

Much of this went against the religious practice of his people, which was centred mostly on externals. He saw the ritual and the law of religion as important only if it came from the heart. This is the challenge always to religion - to live heartily what it enthusiastically believes. Practices in ritual and in religious custom and laws may change with different cultures and times; what is important is the way we live our lives, following Jesus and knowing that all our efforts to live like him are praised and rewarded. Pope Francis says, 'It is not enough to just respect the commandments and do nothing more. Christian life is not just an ethical life: it is an encounter with Jesus Christ'

Donal Neary SJ:

Gospel Reflections for Sundays of Year A: Matthew