



The Holy Family of Bordeaux

in Britain and Ireland

Glory to God alone in Jesus Christ through Mary and Saint Joseph

May 2017

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EDITORIAL

Two religious sisters were discussing the Manchester bombing and one was particularly deploring the deaths of the children, one as young as eight. The other reminded her that hundreds of children die each day from preventable causes and no one talks about it. She didn't mean it that way, but it seemed almost as if she was relativizing the horror of the Manchester massacre and the suffering of the victims and their families.



While it is not quite true that no one talks or is concerned about the statistics we are given on the deaths of children, or people caught up in the many conflicts raging in the world, the fact is that all suffering is local in the first instance. It is the personal experience of suffering in our lives that enables us to empathise with that of others, near and far.

Nowadays, our lives have an inescapable global dimension. It is becoming harder to ignore the suffering of our fellow humans around the world. News of terrorist attacks are instantly flashed around the globe. Perhaps the catchphrase, *think globally, act locally*, now used in very many contexts, is relevant here. Our challenge, where we are, is to work and pray that this evil and hatred may be eliminated from human hearts by the transforming power of redemptive love.

There is evidence in the reactions of grief stricken populations - the outpouring of compassion, the coming together in solidarity, the determination not to let hatred enter their lives - that people are rising to the challenge.

Message from Sr. Gemma (Unit Leader)

FURTHER REFLECTIONS ON THE VISIT – BE NOT AFRAID

During the visit of our General Leadership team, we were invited to think about what we are called to **let go of** and what we are called to **let come** into our lives if we are to move forward in fulfilling our mission of fostering communion among ourselves and in a world that is so in need of unity and peace.

One of the first things we said we needed to let go of is fear - fear of taking risks, fear of failure, fear of welcoming the stranger, fear of ageing and death...

Feeling fear is no bad thing. When fear serves as a warning signal for impending danger or a life-threatening situation, it is necessary and life-preserving. If we didn't feel fear in certain situations we wouldn't react appropriately and we'd put ourselves at risk.

Fear is all pervasive in society today. And it could be argued that we have every reason to fear with the rise of terrorism and crime in our cities; the threats posed to the flourishing of life on this planet by climate change, the growing menace to world peace by authoritarian, oppressive regimes and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Recently, during the elections in America and the referendum in Britain to exit the European Union, we witnessed what has been called "the politics of fear". We saw politicians playing on the fears of the populace, manipulating voters for their own political ends; politicians who kept telling us that the world is a dangerous, hostile place where, in order to be safe, we have to build walls, close our borders to protect ourselves from hordes of immigrants and terrorists who would take our jobs, threaten our security and destroy our way of life. As we know only too well from history, stirring up fear among people leads to demonization of the other, to division, hatred, violence and war.

What effects have our fears on our lives? Fear can create divisions among us, can prevent us from taking

the risk to reach out in love to one another and to give freely of ourselves. Fear of failure stops us from stretching ourselves; it stops us from daring to leave the safety of the known and move out to where God is calling us to accomplish God's plan for humanity.

When we allow fears to control our lives, we risk remaining forever in a comfort zone, afraid to respond with courage to the calls of the Gospel. Safety and security become all important and as we stay ensconced in our safe, familiar places, life can pass us by and many opportunities for bold, creative action can be missed. And above all, we are failing to respond courageously to Jesus' words: "*Go make disciples of all nations*", *forgetting the assurance that he gives us: "and behold I am with you always even until the end of time"*. (Matthew: 28:19).

Pope Francis encourages us to cast all fear from our hearts commenting that a "*fearful Christian is a person who has not understood the message of Jesus*". He continues: "*Fear harms us; it weakens us; it diminishes us and leads to a sort of paralysis*". He even goes so far as to say that fear can make a community sick and he encourages us to ask God for the grace to overcome fear. "*Do not be afraid, and ask for the grace of courage, the courage of the Holy Spirit that He sends us*" (Homily May 15, 2015).

In scripture, Jesus exhorts us many times not to be afraid: "*You of little faith, why are you so afraid?*" (Matthew 8:26). "*Have courage, take heart, be of good cheer, don't be alarmed*"..... Expressions such as these are found everywhere in the Gospels. Jesus' words of reassurance are for us today as well:

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and **do not be afraid.**"* (John 14:27).



51st World Communications Day - 28 May 2017

Theme chosen by Pope Francis

Fear not, for I am with you (Is 43:5): Communicating Hope and Trust in our Time

(For text of message [go to...](#))

Mary Oliver: "I Worried"

(Submitted by Gemma)

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers
flow in the right direction, will the earth turn
as it was taught, and if not how shall
I correct it?

Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven,
can I do better?

Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows
can do it and I am, well,
hopeless.

Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it,
am I going to get rheumatism,
lockjaw, dementia?

Finally I saw that worrying had come to nothing.
And gave it up. And took my old body
and went out into the morning,
and sang.

"I Worried" by Mary Oliver, from Swan: Poems and Prose Poems. © Beacon Press, 2010.

Celebrating
Sr. Jean O'Driscoll's retirement
after her years of service
as Secretary in
Provincial House



Investiture Day - 19 May



This was the very special day when Sr. Rose Devlin, who was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) received her shining insignia in person from Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace. She was accompanied by Sr. Catriona Gore of the Magherafelt community. They were warmly welcomed by the community of St. Gabriel's road – Srs. Kathleen, Margaret and Marie – where they spent the nights before and after the event, and from where they were sent off to Buckingham Palace by taxi on the auspicious day.

The dress code for these ceremonies is quite strict but simple. Ladies are required to wear dresses/skirts that are knee length or below and a hat, or perhaps we should say headgear, because most seem to prefer fascinators nowadays.

Comparisons with how recent, and not so recent, lady visitors – heads of states or spouses of same - to the Pope comply with Vatican protocol in this respect are interesting.

On her return to Ireland, accompanied by Kathleen, Rose stopped at Griffith Downs where an account of the ceremony was again related and the medal displayed and examined. In Newbridge, where Rose is currently staying, the whole community and staff were assembled to welcome and congratulate her.



Ready to leave from St. Gabriel's Road

As we rejoice with Rose on her reception of this honour, we also congratulate and thank all who worked with and supported her in achieving it from her earliest days in the Holy Family. We are what we are through others and, as we are becoming more aware nowadays, through all the interaction of life and matter in the cosmos.



First ever beatification in Ireland

Father John Sullivan SJ (1861 – 1933)

The first ever beatification in Ireland, that of Father John Sullivan SJ (1861 – 1933), took place on Saturday, 13 May, during the celebration of the Eucharist in Saint Francis Xavier Church on Gardiner Street, Dublin.

The principal celebrant and homilist was Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and he was assisted by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin.

Concelebrants included the Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh and several other bishops as well as Father Leonard Moloney SJ, Provincial of the Jesuits in Ireland, Father John Dardis SJ, General Counsellor for Discernment and Apostolic Planning and many Jesuit priests.

The Church of Ireland's Archbishop Michael Jackson of Dublin, and Bishop John McDowell of Clogher, were present in the sanctuary. It was an occasion for rejoicing in the Church of Ireland because, as most people know, Fr. John was a convert from Anglicanism.

The *Holy Family* community in Clane have a long association with the Jesuit community of Clongowes Wood

College where Blessed John taught. For many years the Jesuits came to celebrate the Eucharist with the sisters as most were unable to go out to the local church. On a *quid pro quo* basis, the sisters took



Sr. Catherine, Gerard Duggan, Sr. Sheila, Aishling Kelly ready to depart for the Beatification

charge of washing the priests' altar linen and it was never so "sparklingly white"!

Even when this service was no longer necessary with changes in the community, the friendship continued. That is why, among the invited guests in the congregation were four people from the Newbridge Care Unit (pictured above).

A special friend, Sr. Sheila O'Riordan, was presented with the official biography of Bl. John, written for the occasion.

Needless to say, there were great celebrations in Clane and the surrounding areas where Fr. John was well known for his sanctity, his healing and prophetic gifts. Anecdotes are handed down from family to family so that the present generation also feel a particular affinity to him. It is, after all, only 84 years since his death.

The hope has been expressed that Pope Francis might canonise Bl. John when he comes to Ireland in 2018 for the World Meeting of Families.

Here in Newbridge...



Sr. Columba

Two more Sisters left the "elegant eighties" this month, to join the elite group of the "nineties club."

Vincent Whelan celebrated on May 3rd and Columba Donnelly on May 6th.

While we congratulate both Sisters, we also thank God for their fidelity and companionship.

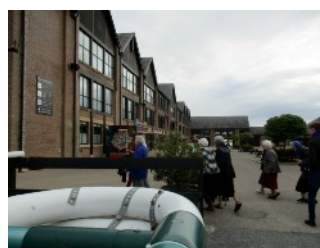


Sr. Vincent

An evening at Punchestown races



On our way...



We've arrived



Racecourse and enclosure



Studying form helped by an expert



Winners?

Breaking the communications barrier

Perhaps the most disabling barrier is the inability to communicate, either because of physical impediments or lack of language skills. That is why new arrivals in a country are grateful for the opportunity to have free language classes where they learn to express themselves in the language of their new homeland.

The following is a piece written by one of the Muslim women Sr. Teresa Edwards meets on a weekly basis at English classes.

My first solo visit to hospital

A few weeks ago my cousin's husband was poorly, he was in hospital in the BRI (Bradford Royal Infirmary) which is just up the road from my house. I wanted to visit him so one day I suggested to my husband, "Let's visit my cousin's husband this afternoon."

My husband said "I am busy, why don't you go on your own? You know where the hospital is, you can go by yourself, you will be fine, you can do it."

I didn't want to go by myself, I was nervous, I thought "Oh dear! The hospital is so big, how will I find the right ward without my husband to help me? I couldn't persuade my husband to go, so I walked up to the BRI.

When I got there I looked around and then I asked a nurse for directions. She told me to go up to the 4th Floor. I didn't dare use the lift so I walked up 4 flights of stairs. It was good exercise but it was tiring and I was scared of getting lost. I reached the 4th Floor, I was out of breath but I was pleased with myself because I was in the right place. I found the right ward where my cousin's husband was.

I asked the nurse about my relative and she told me "He's gone home!"

After all that effort I was too late! I felt disappointed but I also felt pleased with myself because I did it on my own for the first time.

I walked down to the ground floor. It was pouring with rain outside! I walked home in the rain without a coat or umbrella so I was wet through by the time I got home, wet through, upset and happy all at the same time!

Next time I have to go to the hospital it will be easier.

Shakeela



Tutors and Learners
take a Field trip to
admire the bluebells



Association of Younger Religious

For a number of years Lucilla, Nasreen, and Catherine (Lavery) have attended the annual conference of the Association of Younger Religious. This group was set up in 1997 by a Salesian to offer support to religious after final profession. A number of female and male congregations are represented. The annual weekend conference provides a forum for shared prayer, support, reflection and discussion on current issues relating to our stage of religious life. This year's Conference will be led by Catherine Darby SND on the role of leadership within Religious Life.



Srs. Dolcita Kalema, Catherine Lavery, Chandani Jeyasuriya, Lucilla Bonaventoor, Nasreen Nazir

other something of our life journey was indeed a means of getting to know each other better and strengthening our bond.



Setting out from Aberdare

After the Conference last year Lucilla, Nasreen, Chandani and Catherine decided to set aside some time to meet as a group within this Unit and we were delighted to welcome Dolcita. We decided to meet in London for the weekend and travel to Brighton on the Saturday.



We packed our picnic and left with great joy to enjoy the day together blessed with lovely sunshine. The journey by train, strolling leisurely along the beach while sharing/chatting with each

The clear blue sky, pebbled beach, calm sea with the breeze and the beautiful landscape refreshed our body and soul.

by our younger sisters

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Foundation of the Contemplative Sisters 1859	2 Final Profession of the 3 Foundresses 1822	3
4 First 3 Foundresses make their Act of Consecration 1820	5 Ordination of PBN (Eve of Trinity Sun. 1819) World Environment Day	6 Fr. Noailles' first Mass (Trinity Sunday 1819)	7	8 World Ocean Day	9	10
11 Trinity Sunday	12 Our Lady of all Graces World Day against Child Labour	13	14	15	16	17 World Day to combat desertification and drought
18	19 International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in combat	20 World Refugee Day	21	22	23 UNIT Teams of meet in	24 Participation Crewe
25 Meeting ends	26 UN International Day in support of victims of torture	27	28	29 Our Founder's Feast	30	