



Bandon Parish Bulletin

Parish: www.bandonparish.ie

Diocese: www.corkandross.org

Tel: 023 884 1666

Sunday 21st May 2017 No. 2424

Sixth Sunday Of Easter

We do not instinctively associate the concept of love with the demand to be faithful to a series of rules. People often speak about love as if it is in opposition to rules and regulations: ‘All you need is love.’ and ‘Love and do what you will.’ are the type of sayings that are used in discussions as evidence that we do not need to worry about rules.

Yet in the farewell speech to his disciples, Jesus was uncompromising when he explained the necessary connection between loving him and keeping his commandments: ‘If you love me you will keep my commandments.’

In that speech, Jesus dealt with several other concerns. But he then returned to the link between love and the commandments: ‘Anyone who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.’

The central commandment of Jesus’ teaching was to love God and love neighbour. That commandment summarised the basic moral behaviours and ritual practices that Jesus required from his disciples. Those behaviours and practices formed the charter of what it meant for them to live as his followers.

The fundamental message of Jesus’ moral teaching is that we are obligated to love God and our neighbour. We cannot love one without the other. It is impossible to compartmentalise God and people such that they remain unconnected. Our dealings with others have implications for our friendship with God. This is how, in practice, we connect love and rules. If we love God, we will keep his commandments. If we love our neighbour, we will not treat him or her unjustly.

The teaching of Jesus offers us clear instructions to enable us to be faithful to God’s will. It summarises what is required in order to live a wholesome life that reflects God’s truth and beauty. Its purpose is to rid our lives of selfishness and self-centredness so that we can learn to put God and other people first and ourselves last.

John Littleton, The Priory Institute

FIRST READING

Ac 8:5-8.14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 65:1-7.16-20

R. Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **R.**
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. **R.**
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. **R.**
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love for me. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pt 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready

for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

THE APPARITIONS AT FATIMA

To mark the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, The Irish Catholic Newspaper will have a special edition. The price will be €1.80 as usual.

VIATORES CHRISTI

Members of the Viatores Christi, a Lay Missionary Group, will speak at our parish masses this weekend. A collection will be taken up.

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION Sunday 18th June

The annual meeting to make the arrangements for the Procession will take place on Wednesday 24th May at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

A second collection will be taken up at all masses next weekend in aid of the World Meeting of Families which will take place in Dublin next year.

STUDENTS EXAM MASS

A Student Exam Mass will take place on Saturday May 27th at 6.00pm in St Patrick's Church

BANDON SHOW Bandon Show takes place today Sunday, we wish them every success.

CITIZENS INFORMATION MOBILE UNIT West Cork Citizens Information Service will have its Mobile Information Unit in Bandon from Monday 22nd until Thursday 25th May. It will be based in the Riverview SC carpark, and will be open from 10am-4pm each day. No appointment is necessary. The service is free and confidential. The help-line number for West Cork Citizens Information Service is 0761 07 8390.

BEALTAINE PLAYBACK THEATRE Presents a performance of 'Life is for Living' at The Gateway, Bandon on Monday 22nd at 7.30pm. Followed by a Theatre Workshop on Friday, 26th May at 10am also at the Gateway. The performance and workshop are initiatives to promote Bealtaine - the month celebrating positive ageing and are supported by St Michael's Centre. For information, call us on 023 88 41681.

THE OPINION June issue is out on Thursday next, May 25th.

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 14:15-21

1. 'If you love me you will keep my commandments', and specifically the commandment to love one another (cf. 13:34). How have you experienced the link between love of God and love of those around you?
2. Jesus is preparing his disciples for his imminent departure and for a future in which he would be with them in a different way. He would not 'leave them orphans' but send an 'Advocate' to 'be with (them) for ever'. How have you experienced the presence of God with you in your life?
3. Perhaps you have also experienced the challenge of preparing another (a child, a friend) for a time when you would no longer be physically together. Recall how you gave the message of your ongoing support.
4. How have you experienced the presence and support of a loved one (parent, spouse, friend) when circumstances have separated you from them?
5. The proof of the ongoing presence of Jesus with his disciples is that 'I live and you will live.' Discipleship is about much more than rules and regulations. It is about being alive. How has discipleship helped you to be more fully alive.

John Byrne OSA

LECTIO DIVINA

Meetings take place on Monday evenings from 8-9pm in the Presentation Convent.

"If anyone loves me he will keep my word and my Father will love him and we shall come to him"