<u>Newsletter</u>	**Fifteenth Sunday of the Year**	**July 10th 2022**

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the summer, even if the weather is letting us down! At least nature is still sharing its abundant beauty with us, and of course the Word of God continues to share the beauty of divine life with us.

Some years ago the Bible Society of Scotland carried out a survey asking people of various ages to name their favourite Scripture passage. Among young children the most popular passage concerned Zachaeus, the little man who climbed the tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus as he passed by. Among the adults who responded, a passage which influenced many is the gospel we hear at the liturgy this weekend: The Parable of the Good Samaritan.

It is a wonderful text: a lawyer asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life and he describes to Jesus what is written in the law: *"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."* Jesus tells him that if he lives in this way then eternal life will be his. However, not quite satisfied with this response, the lawyer proceeds to ask Jesus a further question *"And who is my neighbour?"*

Instead of responding directly, Jesus uses a moving parable to invite the lawyer to move beyond any legalistic interpretation of the law. He paints a vivid picture of someone lying on the road half-dead having been attacked; on seeing the injured man others begin to pass by on the other side, first among them a priest! And then a Levite. But when the Samaritan comes along (someone the lawyer would have looked down upon), he responds with great compassion and care, bandaging his wounds, lifting him on to his own horse and taking him to shelter and paying for his care. And then Jesus asks the lawyer a question of his own*: "Which of the three do you think proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigand's hands?"* The lawyer cannot quite bring himself to say '*the Samaritan*', but at least he does say: "*The one who took pity on him".* And so Jesus replies, *"Go, and do the same yourself."* In other words, be like the Good Samaritan, the very one the lawyer looked down upon.

According to Jesus then, a neighbour is *anyone* in need, and a good neighbour is *anyone* who responds with kindness to the need of another. Little wonder then that this beautiful parable is one of the passages from Scripture that continues to inspire us today, hopefully Good News for the migrants and refugees in our world.

I offer here the times of the liturgy in the days ahead:
Saturday July 9th
Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm
Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday July 10th
Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am
Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Monday July 11th, Mass at St. Mary's at 10am
Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7pm
Tuesday July 12th, Mass at St. Paul's at 10am
Wednesday July 13th, Mass at St. Mary's at10am
Thursday, July 14th, Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Saturday July 16th
Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm
Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday July 17th
Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am
Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Rosemary Scanlan, Anne Terrett, Ella Muir, Mary Ann Lamont, Andrew Ward, Peter Tansey, Keira Tansey, Patrick Cassidy

Special Remembrance: Karen Wilson, Martyn John Baker, Catherine Carney, Joe McCafferty, Frank and Mary McAteer, deceased members of the McCafferty and McAteer families, Martin and Roseann Boylan, Susan and Lawrence Connolly, Robert Henry Burke, Vanessa Stephens, Helen and Eric Murphy and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace.*