



PARISH OF CASHEL, NEWLETT
10TH SUNDAY / B 18
10TH JUNE 2018
FR. MERLYN KENNY-043 3325112

Whoever does
God's will
brother and
sister
My Mother.

IF A HOUSE IS DIVIDED
AGAINST ITSELF,
IT CANNOT STAND.
IF A FAMILY IS
NOT
ABLE TO STAND,
IT CANNOT STAND.

Mass Times & Masses for the dead as follows:

Sat 9th June	8.00pm	Peter Hopkins, Drumree. (4th Anniv).
Sun 10th June	10.30am	Mass for the people of the Parish.
Mon 11th June	8.00pm	Special Intention.
Tues 12th June	8.00pm	Special Intention.
Wed 13th June	No Mass.	Adoration as usual.
Thurs 14th June	9.30am	Special Intention.
Fri 15th June	8.00pm	
Sat 16th June	8.00pm	Elizabeth Bawle & D.F.M. Portanure.
Sun 17th June	10.30am	

Eucharistic Adoration continues on Wednesday 3pm-9pm and Friday 8.30pm-9pm

Eucharistic Roster:

8.00pm Sat 16th June	Anna Costello & Thomas Dennigan
10.30am Sun 17th June	Dermot Healy & Anne Kenny.

Readers' Roster:

8.00pm Sat 16th June	Lisa Dowd.
10.30am Sun 17th June	Margaret Boyce.

Cemetery Sundays: Saints Island - 12th August at 12.00 Noon & Cashel - 19th August at 12.00 Noon.

Fourth National Collection for the World Meeting of Families, 16th / 17th June 2018

As committed Catholic Christians who embrace the Word of God and Catholic teaching, the rejection of the right to life of the unborn has left a deep wound in our hearts. Protecting life from conception to natural death continues to be the call to all who accept Jesus Christ and His teachings. Matt Talbot shows us what we must do when all seems lost - we pro-lifers can learn from this great Irishman.

Final Clean Up of the Village this Monday evening at 7pm. Judging will take place some of the days this week. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Reflection: *Jesus fell three times under his cross to show us what it looks like to persevere in weakness, and Matt Talbot does just the same.*

Matt Talbot was a drunk. His father was a drunk. Nearly every one of his brothers was a drunk. He was uneducated and unskilled and died in obscurity. And someday soon, God willing, Venerable Matt Talbot will be a saint.

Talbot was born on 2 May 1856 at 13 Aldborough Court, Dublin, the second eldest of twelve children of Charles and Elizabeth Talbot, a poor family in the North Strand area. He was baptised in St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral on 5 May. His father and all but the oldest of his brothers were heavy drinkers. Matt left school at the age of twelve and went to work in a wine merchant's store. He very soon began 'sampling their wares', and was considered a hopeless alcoholic by age thirteen. He then went to the Port & Docks Board where he worked in the whiskey stores. He frequented pubs in the city with his brothers and friends, spending most or all of his wages and running up debts. When his wages were spent, he borrowed and scrounged for money. He pawned his clothes and boots to get money for alcohol. On one occasion, he stole a fiddle from a street entertainer and sold it to buy drink.

One evening, 28-year old Talbot, who was penniless and out of credit, waited outside a pub in the hope that somebody would invite him in for a drink. After one friend after another passed him by without offering to treat him, despite his generosity to them in similar situations, he went home deeply hurt and saddened, and announced to his mother that he was going to 'take the pledge'.

Matt's heart had been seized, first by misery, then by remorse, and soon by love. He made his first confession in years and returned to the Sacraments. He promised sobriety for three months, then six, then for all his life. He went to Holy Cross College, Clonliffe where he took the pledge for three months.

At the end of the three months, he took the pledge for six months, then for life.

Having been drinking excessively for 16 years, Talbot maintained sobriety for the following forty years of his life. There is evidence that Matt's first seven years after taking the pledge were especially difficult. He found strength in prayer, began to attend daily Mass, and read religious books and pamphlets. He repaid all his debts scrupulously. Having searched for the fiddler whose instrument he had stolen, and failed to find him, he gave the money to have Mass said for him. Even when his drinking was at its worst, Talbot was a hard worker. On 22 September 1911 Talbot joined the builder's labourers branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union. When the Dublin Lockout of 1913 led to sympathy strikes throughout the city, the men of Martin's, including Talbot, came out. He asked that his strike pay be shared out among the other strikers.

From being an indifferent Catholic in his drinking days, Talbot became increasingly devout. He lived a life of prayer, fasting, and penance, trying to model himself on the sixth century Irish monks like St. Kevin of Glendalough. He was guided for most of his life by Dr. Michael Hickey, Professor of Philosophy in Clonliffe College - who had an intuition that he had a potential saint on his hands. Under Dr. Hickey's guidance Talbot learned to read properly. He read laboriously the Scriptures, lives of saints, *The Confessions of St. Augustine*, and writings of St. Francis de Sales and others.

Although poor himself, he gave unstintingly to neighbours and fellow workers, to charitable institutions. After his mother's death in 1915 he lived in a small flat with very little furniture. He slept on a plank bed with a piece of timber for a pillow. He rose at 5 a.m. every day so as to attend Mass before work. At work, whenever he had spare time, he found a quiet place to pray. Talbot was on his way to Mass on Trinity Sunday, 7 June 1925, when he collapsed and died of heart failure on Granby Lane in Dublin. Nobody at the scene was able to identify him. Talbot's story quickly filtered through the community and there were many spectators when his funeral took place at Glasnevin Cemetery on 11 June 1925.

On 6 November 1931, Archbishop Byrne of Dublin opened a sworn inquiry into the alleged claims of holiness of the former dock worker. On 3rd October 1975 Pope Paul VI declared him to be Venerable Matt Talbot, which is a step on the road to his canonisation, a process which needs evidence of a physical miracle in order to be successful.

A possible miracle in Kansas, where a healthy child was delivered despite tests showing abnormalities - Down syndrome or cystic fibrosis - after his aunt organized a prayer chain asking the intercession of Matt Talbot, is currently under investigation. If shown to be 'medically inexplicable', the case may bring Talbot a step closer to sainthood.

"Never be too hard on the man who can't give up drink. It's as hard to give up the drink as it is to raise the dead to life again. But both are possible and even easy for Our Lord. We have only to depend on him." - Matt Talbot.

Many addiction clinics, youth hostels and statues have been named after him throughout the world from Nebraska to Warsaw to Sydney. One of Dublin's main bridges is also named after him. A statue of Talbot was erected at Sir John Rogerson's Quay in 1988. Pope John Paul II, as a young man, wrote a paper on him.

"Three things I cannot escape: the eye of God, the voice of conscience, the stroke of death. In company, guard your tongue. In your family, guard your temper. When alone guard your thoughts!"

Moral:

"A household divided against itself cannot stand" - according to today's Gospel.

Matt's soul was divided against itself ... through addiction.

Yours and mine are divided too ... when there is a darkness not of God therein.

The evidence is seen in the escalating levels of stress and anxiety all around us ...

Matt found an answer in a powerful prayer life ... *You and I can too!*