



PARISH OF CASHEL NEWELL  
15TH SUNDAY / B 18  
15TH JULY 2016



#### Mass Times & Masses for the dead as follows:

Sat 14th July	8.00pm	Tom & Annie Murray & their Son John, Caltramore & Tara.
Sun 15th July	10.30am	Special Intention.
Mon 16th July	8.00pm	Tom & Mary Clyne, also Hannah Clyne, Derrygowna.
Tues 17th July	8.00pm	Special Intention.
Wed 18th July	No Mass	Adoration as usual.
Thurs 19th July	9.30am	Special Intention.
Fri 20th July	8.00pm	
Sat 21st July	8.00pm	Paddy Joe Farrell, Clonmace. (1st Anniv.)
Sun 22nd July	10.30am	Mass for the people of the parish.

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

**Eucharistic Roster:** 8.00pm Sat 21st July Anne Kelly & Laura Hanley.  
10.30am Sun 22nd July John Flood & Carmel Hopkins.

**Readers' Roster:** 8.00pm Sat 21st July Brian Kelly.  
10.30am Sun 22nd July Helen Hassett.

**A Bus to Phoenix Park for the Pope's visit** will be organised if there are enough people willing to travel. Please put your name on the list in the children's room at the back of the Church.

**Cemetery Sundays:** Saints Island: 12th Aug @ 12.00 Noon & Cashel: 19th Aug @ 12.00 Noon.

**Baptism:** We welcome into our Christian community baby Mira Ayn Donlon, who was baptised on Saturday. Congratulations to her parents Sumi & Kenneth.

**Volunteers** for Newtowncashel Forage Club: Please contact Jim - 0869672920.

**Reflection:** On April 1, 1942, Desmond Doss joined the United States Army. Little did he realize that three and a half years later, he would be standing on the White House lawn, receiving the nation's highest award for his bravery and courage under fire.

Of the 16 million men in uniform during World War II, only 431 received the Congressional Medal of Honour. One of these was placed around the neck of a young man, who during combat had **not killed a single enemy soldier**. In fact, **he refused to carry a gun**. His only weapon was his faith in God.

President Harry S. Truman warmly shook the hand of Corporal Desmond Thomas Doss, and then held it the entire time his citation was read aloud to those gathered outside the White House on October 12, 1945. "I'm proud of you," Truman said. "You really deserve this. I consider this a greater honour than being president."

The journey that had brought young Desmond to this day had been a challenging one. When Pearl Harbour was attacked, he was working at the Newport News Naval shipyard and could have requested a deferment—but he wanted to do more for his country. He was willing to risk his life on the front lines in order to preserve freedom.

When he joined the Army, Desmond assumed that his classification as a conscientious objector would not require him to carry a weapon. He wanted to be an Army combat medic. As luck would have it, he was assigned to an infantry rifle company. His refusal to carry a gun caused a lot of trouble among his fellow soldiers. They viewed him with disdain and called him a misfit. One man in the barracks warned him, "Doss, as soon as we get into combat, I'll make sure you won't come back alive."

His commanding officers also wanted to get rid of the skinny Virginian who spoke with a genteel southern drawl. They saw him as a liability. Nobody believed a soldier without a weapon was worthwhile. They tried to intimidate him, scold him, assign him extra tough duties, and declared him mentally unfit for the Army. Then they attempted to court martial him for refusing a direct order—to carry a gun. But they failed to find a way to toss him out, and he refused to leave. He believed his duty was to obey God and serve his country. But it had to be in that order. His unwavering convictions were most important.

Desmond had been raised with a fervent belief in the Scriptures. When it came to the Ten Commandments, he applied them personally. During childhood his father had purchased a large framed picture at an auction. It portrayed the Ten Commandments with colourful illustrations. Next to the words, "Thou shalt not kill" was a drawing of Cain holding a club and standing over the body of his dead brother Abel. Little Desmond would look at that picture and ask, "Why did Cain kill Abel? How in the world could a brother do such a thing?" In Desmond's mind, God said, "If you love me, you won't kill." With that picture firmly embedded in his mind, he determined that he would never take life.

Things began turning around when the men discovered that this quiet unassuming medic had a way to heal the blisters on their march-weary feet. And if someone fainted from heat stroke, this medic was at his side, offering his own canteen. Desmond never held a grudge. With kindness and gentle courtesy, he treated those who had mistreated him. He lived the golden rule, "...do to others what you would have them do to you..." (Matthew 7:12 NIV).

Desmond served in combat on the islands of Guam, Leyte, and Okinawa. In each military operation he exhibited extraordinary dedication to his fellow men. While others were taking life, he was busy saving life. When the cry, "medic" rang out on the battlefield, he never considered his own safety. He repeatedly ran into the heat of battle to treat a fallen comrade and carry him back to safety. All this, while enemy bullets whizzed past and mortar shells exploded around him. Several times, while treating a wounded soldier, Desmond was so close to enemy lines, he could hear the whispering of Japanese voices.

In May, 1945, as German troops were surrendering on the other side of the world, Japanese troops were fiercely defending, to their last man, the only remaining barrier (Okinawa and the Maeda Escarpment) to an allied invasion of their homeland. The men in Desmond's division were repeatedly trying to capture the Maeda Escarpment, an imposing rock face the soldiers called Hacksaw Ridge. After the company had secured the top of the cliff, the Americans were stunned when suddenly enemy forces rushed them in a vicious counterattack. Officers ordered an immediate retreat. Soldiers rushed to climb back down the steep cliff. **All the soldiers except one.**

Less than one third of the men made it back down. The rest lay wounded, scattered across enemy soil—abandoned and left for dead, if they weren't already. One lone soldier disobeyed orders and charged back into the firefight to rescue as many of his men as he could, before he either collapsed or died trying. His iron determination and unflinching courage resulted in **at least 75 lives** saved that day, May 5, 1945. Eventually, the Americans took Hacksaw Ridge. Several days later, during an unsuccessful night raid, Desmond was severely wounded. Hiding in a shell hole with two riflemen, a Japanese grenade landed at his feet. The explosion sent him flying. The shrapnel tore into his leg and up to his hip. He treated his own wounds as best he could. While attempting to reach safety, he was hit by a sniper's bullet that shattered his arm. His brave actions as a combat medic were done. But not before insisting that his litter-bearers take another man first before rescuing him. Wounded, in pain, and losing blood, he still put others ahead of his own safety. He would choose to die so another could live. After all, that's what he read in the Gospel. Such was the character demonstrated by Jesus Christ.

The Medal of Honour was established during the Civil War under President Abraham Lincoln in 1862. At the one hundredth anniversary in 1962, the other recipients of that award selected Desmond Doss to represent them at a White House ceremony. He had a pleasant chat with President John F. Kennedy.

Before being discharged from the Army in 1946, Desmond developed tuberculosis. He would spend most of the next six years in hospitals. Cold, wet, sleepless nights, shivering in a muddy foxhole on the islands of the Pacific, had taken their toll. As the illness progressed his left lung had to be surgically removed along with five ribs. For the rest of his life, he survived on a single lung, until it too failed. At the age of 87, Corporal Desmond Thomas Doss died on March 23, 2006, after being hospitalized with difficulty breathing. He is buried in the National Cemetery, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**Moral:** Amos the prophet was hated like all the others. The people did not want to hear warnings from God to repent: "Go away seer, go back to your own country ... we want no more prophesying here!" Desmond Doss has a beautiful prophetic message ... but was hated and abused at the time ... What about you and me? ... Will we leave a prophetic mark behind us too ...?