



Mass Times & Masses for the dead as follows:

Sat 22nd Sept 8.00pm Pat Clarke, Curroole.
Sun 23rd Sept 10.30am
Mon 24th Sept No Mass re: painting of Church.
Tues 25th Sept No Mass re: painting of Church.
Wed 26th Sept No Mass or Adoration re: painting of Church.
Thurs 27th Sept No Mass re: painting of Church.
Fri 28th Sept 9.30am Special Intention. Station at 8pm.
Sat 29th Sept 8.00pm
Sun 30th Sept 10.30am

Eucharistic Adoration continues Friday 8.30pm-9pm

Eucharistic Roster: 8.00pm Sat 29th Sept Teresa Costello & Bernadette Farrell.
10.30am Sun 30th Sept Yvonne Kenny & Elizabeth Whitton.

Readers' Roster: 8.00pm Sat 29th Sept Siobhan Casey.
10.30am Sun 30th Sept Margaret Boyce.

First Holy Communion enrolment will take place on Sunday 30th September at 10.30am Mass.

Stations: For Station Mass please contact me at 086 0603433.

Already booked:

Friday 28th Sept Sean Skelly, Caltramore.
Friday 5th Oct Lorraine & Eddie Kearney, Fortwilliam / Greenhall
Thurs 25th Oct Kathleen & Michael Casey, Derragh Beg.
Friday 26th Oct Chris and Seamus Casey, Greenhall Upper, Aughnacross, Carrickdunican.
Friday 2nd Nov Lorraine and Justin Murtagh Newpark and Clonmee.

Reflection:

In the southern states of America many years ago, a father, a lawyer, lived with his 2 young children. This was at the time when racial tensions were at their height. His wife had died some years beforehand. He was a good man doing his best to bring his children up properly. However, he has made himself unpopular in the town by opting to defend an African American charged with a crime. Though this accused man is almost certainly innocent, he stands very little chance of getting a fair trial, for the area is rife with discrimination against his race.

At the end of the street lives an elderly woman, who spends her afternoons sitting in her front garden. She is very cranky and short tempered. She is forever giving out to the lawyer's children as they pass by on their way to and from school. But what hurts the kids most is the way she calls their father nasty names simply because he is defending the African American.

One evening, the son decided that he has taken enough from this cranky old woman. So he hops over her garden wall and *destroys some of her favourite flowers*. Then he runs home. Of course the old lady stops his father on his way home from work and rants at him about the disgraceful job he is doing in bringing up his little brats. The father sends for his son and says: "Son, you shouldn't have done that!" And he protests: "But she's not nice. She is always giving out to us. And you should hear the things she is saying about you. *I really did it because of you*".

"The woman is a very sick person. Now go down and apologise to her for what you did. Reluctantly,

the boy goes down and apologises. The woman surprisingly asks him if he could come and read for her for an hour each evening. He is horrified at the thought, but when he gets home and tells his father, his dad insists that he must say yes to the old lady. So, each evening, accompanied by his little sister, the boy goes to the old lady's house to read for her. They both hate it for she remains as cranky and cantankerous as ever. Even worse, she continues to insult their father. Each evening after they have read for her, the old woman gets a violent fit of trembling. They are forced to leave and a nurse takes over. However, as the weeks pass by, the fits get less frequent and severe. Then one evening the father comes home and tells the children that the old lady has died. They think "*Thank God*", but dare not say it. Then the father tells them something which changes their whole attitude to the old lady.

He tells them that: "Several years earlier, doctors had prescribed pain-killing drugs for her and she had become addicted to them. After that she was told that she had only a short time to live. That was when she made up her mind to try to kick the habit and at least die *free from drugs*. Those fits she was getting were withdrawal symptoms ..."

"And did she succeed?" the kids asked earnestly.

"She did", the father answered. "And just before she died, she told me that she would never have succeeded if you had not come and read for her. She wanted me to thank you specially."

The kids were flabbergasted on hearing this, and they cried out:

"If only we had known what she was going through, we would have been *nicer to her*."

"It doesn't matter," the father said, "the main thing is that you did what I asked you to do. Because of that, you are two very good children. And, I am proud of you".

Moral: The point of the story is this: The children did not realise the significance of what they were doing. They did not understand the meaning of the task set for them. Yet, they did it in a spirit of obedience and out of love for their father. And of course, he was right!

In the same way God Our Father, through His Church asks us to do things we don't understand at the time. They are often *the very opposite* of what we want to do. However, time will always tell. Only in hindsight will we see clearly why God challenges us to do things we find incomprehensible now. At the time they hurt ... in time we will get a great reward!

One such request is the Message of Fatima of 1917:

"That the Church and the world are going to enter a period of darkness never seen or experienced before ... over the next century." This certainly seems to have happened. To mitigate (lessen) the evil involved ... God has granted Our Lady a special grace to intercede for us. Two of the children were made saints a couple of years ago. This is what they tell us Our Lady requires of us for the **Triumph of Her Immaculate Heart** promised by God at Fatima:

1) Say the Rosary daily; 2) Go to Confession regularly; 3) Go to Mass and receive Holy Communion. And for those who are able ... to fast on Friday on Bread and Water ... even to give up meat on Friday has a value in this regard. Otherwise, giving up desert on Friday still counts as a little fast.

As Jesus said: "*Certain evils can only be conquered by prayer and fasting.*" Buddhists do it ... Hindus do it ... Muslims do it ... and they don't even believe in Jesus as God's Son! Little saints Jacinta (8 years old) and Francisco (9 years old) told us ... before Our Lady brought them to Heaven: "It's the only way to heal the wounds caused by sinners in the Church ... and to pass on the faith to our children."