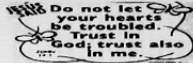


PARISH OF CASHEL NEWSLETTER
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
26TH MAY 2019
FR. MERILYN KENNY-043 3325112



Mass Times & Masses for the dead as follows:

Sat 25th May	8.00pm	John & Elizabeth McArdle, Forthill.
Sun 26th May	10.30am	Mass for all those doing exams.
Mon 27th May	8.00pm	Special Intention.
Tues 28th May	8.00pm	Special Intention.
Wed 29th May	No Mass.	
Thurs 30th May	9.30am	Special Intention.
Fri 31st May	8.00pm	Tom & Mary Clyne.

Also Hannah Clyne & Brian Moran. Derrygowina.

Sat 1st June	8.00pm	Frank, Rose & Oliver Burke, Derrahaun.
Sun 2nd June	10.30am	
Mon 3rd June	8.00pm	John Fagan, Dermacar.
Tues 4th June	8.00pm	Michael, Anne & Christopher Donnelly, Ballagh.

Please note Eucharistic Ministers will go down to the seats to bring Holy Communion to anyone who does not wish to come forward. Please raise your hand to let them know.

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

Rosary continues on Saturday evening at 7.30pm.

Eucharistic Ministers:

8.00pm Sat 1st June	Dylan Mulvihill & Helen O'Shea.
10.30am Sun 2nd June	Dermot Healy & Anne Kenny.

Readers:

8.00pm Sat 1st June	Lauren Casey.
10.30am Sun 2nd June	Brid Sweeney.

Cashel GAA are holding a Wooden Horse Race in The Local on Sunday 2nd June at 8.30pm. This promises to be an entertaining event. Please support.

St. Mary's N.S Clothing Recycling Friday 7th June. Bags of unwanted clothes, footwear etc (dry & clean) can be left in staff car park or P.E. shed before 9.30am. This is a valuable fundraiser & we appreciate your continued support.

Reflection: At the close of the eighteenth century the slave trade was a thriving and very big business. Prominent families held slaves and interests in the slave business, a vast swathe of people depended on slavery for their livelihoods, and public opinion was undisturbed by it. When Thomas Clarkson threw in his lot with a small group of Quakers in opposition to the trade the odds of success were seemingly impossible.

On May 22, 1787 Clarkson and about a dozen others met in the James Phillip Bookstore for the first official meeting of the Committee of the Slave Trade. They devised a strategy to gather intelligence on the trade, expose it's inhumanity via pamphlets, posters and public lectures, and build momentum for a banning of the British slave trade. Clarkson became their only full time anti slavery campaigner.

The task was incredibly difficult. Few of those involved in the slavery business would talk to him; he received death threats, and at least one attempt on his life; many mocked him. In that first year he noted: "I began now to tremble, for the first time, at the arduous task I had undertaken, of attempting to subvert one of the branches of the commerce of the great place which was then before me ... I questioned whether I should even get out of it alive."

Yet the tide of opinion began to turn. Petitions containing thousands of names started to find

their way to Parliament. More people joined themselves to the cause, including the potter Josiah Wedgwood, who crafted a relief of a kneeling slave with the words "Am I not a man and a brother?" that became a popular and influential adornment, and parliamentarian William Wilberforce, who championed the cause in Parliament. Hundreds of thousands stopped using sugar, the major slave-produced good in England, and slave-free sugar started appearing. The autobiography of freed slave Olaudah Equiano became a best seller and many heard him speak.

Within five years of that first meeting at the James Phillip bookstore public opinion had turned against the slave trade. Parliament however would take longer to conquer. Like Clarkson, Wilberforce met with fierce opposition and derision. Admiral Horatio Nelson (Nelson's Pillar in Dublin was installed in his honour), for example, condemned them and *"the damnable doctrine of Wilberforce and his hypocritical allies"*. He also found the support of colleagues such as the Prime Minister, William Pitt. Bills against the trade were moved in 1791, 1792, 1793, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1804, and 1805, all without success, until on February 27, 1807 a bill for the abolition of the slave trade passed the House by a vote of 283 to 16.

The anti slavery activists had assumed that once the shipping of slaves was outlawed slavery would collapse. This assumption proved naive. While no more slaves were shipped, slaves continued to be held on British owned plantations in the West Indies and their children enslaved. This set off continued campaigning. A mass uprising of slaves in 1831 signalled the oppression of slaves was no longer sustainable, and in 1833 the Emancipation Act finally saw the end of British slavery.

It took fifty six years, but who'd have thought that from that meeting of a dozen people in the James Phillip Bookstore on May 22, 1787, armed with nothing but their determination and their voices, would issue such a result?

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake," a robin asked a wild dove.

"Nothing more than nothing," was the answer. "In that case, I must tell you a little story," the robin said.

"I sat on the branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow ... not heavily, not in a raging blizzard ... no, just like a dream, without a sound and without any violence. Since I did not have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the 3,741,953rd dropped onto the branch, nothing more than nothing, as you say, ... *the branch broke off*."

Having said that, the robin flew away.

The dove, since Noah's time, an authority on the matter, thought about the story for awhile, and finally said to herself, *"Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come to the world."*

Moral: In a fortnight's time we celebrate Pentecost Sunday ... a small group of uneducated disciples met in the upper room for 9 days beforehand to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The result: 2.5 billion Christians 2,000 years later. Let us join them in the 9 days from Ascension Thursday for a renewal of that gift so needed today.