

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 64: 10-14 R/v Luke 8:8

R: Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9



Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said,

‘Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they

found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!’

The Eucharist

The phrase “the source and summit of the Christian life” perfectly encapsulates the foundational role the Eucharist plays in Catholic theology. First formally promulgated by the Second Vatican Council and highlighted by the Catechism of the Catholic Church, this statement defines the Eucharist as both the origin from which all spiritual grace flows and the ultimate goal to which all Christian actions and sacraments are oriented.

The Church describes the Eucharist, i.e. the Sacrifice of the Mass, as “*the source and summit of the Christian life*”. It’s the *source* because the Eucharist enables us to *make present and offer anew* Jesus Christ’s one redemptive Sacrifice of Calvary, which began with his Passion. It’s the *summit* because the Eucharist is truly a foretaste of heaven, in which we partake of Jesus’ body and blood as heaven and earth become most profoundly one.

The Eucharist is a communion sacrifice, which means we partake of Jesus in a way similar to how the ancient Israelites ate the flesh of the Old Covenant Passover lambs. But the New Covenant Passover is much more profound, for there is only *one* Lamb - the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world - and eating Jesus’ body and drinking his blood provides *eternal* life.

Forty days after his Resurrection from the dead, Jesus ascends in triumph to heaven, taking his seat at the right hand of the Father. In doing so, Jesus culminates his one Sacrifice of Calvary in everlasting glory, fulfilling *also* the Old Covenant Day of Atonement sacrifices. That’s because Jesus takes not the blood of goats and calves, but *his own*, and he enters into the *heavenly sanctuary*, not one made by human hands. So Jesus is the high priest of heaven, and he always lives to make intercession for us, which means the Eucharistic Sacrifice has continuing atoning power for the sins we commit daily.

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Why Sunday Matters!

‘*Why Sunday Matters*’, is a publication by the Irish Bishops Conference which encourages Catholics to reflect on the importance of Sunday Mass and invites those who have stopped attending, to return.

The document frames its message using three key themes:

Communion: It describes Mass as a vital, life-giving encounter with Christ and a way to build unity and community as the “Body of Christ”.

Participation: It acknowledges challenges that have disconnected people, especially the young, from the Church but stresses that physical participation is essential for the Church to be “visibly alive”.

Mission: It explains that Mass nourishes faith and strengthens attendees to live as “missionaries” by sharing Christ’s love in their daily lives. The document concludes by offering specific questions for reflection:

- How can I enrich my experience of Mass and make it a central part of my life?
- Is this message calling me to make any change in how I spend my Sunday?
- How can I best engage more young people in our celebration?
- Who can I share this message and its contents with?

The document aims to make the Sunday celebration more vibrant and welcoming.

You can read the document on: www.irishcatholicbishopsconference.ie and scroll down to ‘*Why Sunday Matters – An invitation to reflect on Sunday Mass*’.

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Jesus’s one Sacrifice is made sacramentally present and offered anew at *every* Mass according to the order of Melchizedek, i.e., under the forms of bread and wine. Consequently, the words of the Lord’s Prayer - “Thy kingdom come, that will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” - are nowhere more profoundly fulfilled than in the Mass, because heaven and earth are united in a most perfect way that further fosters the Redemption of mankind! (*Credo of the People of God*, 24-26)

Monday, 13th July - St Henry

8.00am: Special Intention **10.00am:** Marie Dimurro Cortes (For Healing)

Tuesday, 14th July - St Camillus de Lellis

8.00am: No Intention
10.00am: Patrick & Sabina Doris, son P.J. & daughter Margaret (A)

Wednesday, 15th July - St Bonaventure

8.00am: Catherine Clyne & DFM
10.00am: Bernard Taafe & his son Bernard (A)

Thursday, 16th July - Our Lady of Mount Carmel

8.00am: No Intention **10.00am:** Our Lady of Mount Carmel
7.30pm Curry: No Intention

Friday, 17th July

8.00am: No Intention **10.00am:** Margaret O'Hara (A)

Saturday, 18th July

8.00am: Christy Loftus (A) **10.00am:** Noel Meunier (A)

Sunday, 19th July - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7.30pm Vigil: Nell Canning (2nd A)
Rose & Harry Belton, their sons Laurence & Patrick & Anne Belton
D.M. of the Coughlan Family

8.00am: **Mass for People of the Parish (Missa Pro Populo)**

10.00am: Genevieve Barone (MM) & her late husband, Charlie;
Breege Smith (MM)
Sean O'Connor (MM)

11.30am: Annamai McCreanor (MM)
Maurice Leahy (1st A)
Stefan Kroschen (A)

1.00pm: Attracta McMullin (1st A)
Kevin & Micháel Trappe (A)
Rosaleen Fry & her parents Margaret & Tom Caffrey (A)

6.00pm: Intentions of the McErlean family, of Karen & Theresa Herbison & for
the repose of the soul of Thomas McErlean Snr

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: We thank you most sincerely for your generous contribution to our collection last week which amounted to €5,115.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION is now due. Peter's Pence aims to support the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV's mission, which extends throughout the entire world, from the proclamation of the Gospel to the promotion of integral human development, education, peace and reconciliation among peoples, populations afflicted by natural disasters and wars, or who are in need of humanitarian assistance or support for development.

BAPTISM It is with great joy we welcomed Nova Kate McQuaid, Lauren Katherina Kane, Liam Goncalves Tavares and Joseph Anthony McDonnell into the Christian community last weekend.

CONGRATULATIONS to Aisling Nevin and David Evans who gave themselves to each other in holy matrimony this week.

† **RECENTLY DECEASED:** We remember in our prayers Lynn Nerney (nee O'Keeffe) (Templemichael Glebe) whose funeral took place during the week. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

NOVENA to Our Lady of Mount Carmel continues in the Cathedral at 5pm **Monday 13th - Wed 15th**; concluding with mass **Thursday 16th July** at 10am.

KNOCK BASILICA 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS take place on **Saturday 18th July**, with a special celebration at the Basilica of Our Lady, Queen of Ireland. Full details on www.knockshrine.ie.

PIONEER ASSOCIATION OF THE SACRED HEART PILGRIMAGE takes place in Knock Shrine on **Sunday 19th July**.

GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION PILGRIMAGE takes place in Knock on **Sunday 26th July**. It honours the Sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, featuring the Anointing of the Sick at 2:30pm and a special Mass at 3:00pm celebrated by Archbishop Eamon Martin.

REEK SUNDAY takes place on **26th July 2026**. This year's theme is Road Safety. Fr John Kenny, Administrator of Westport Parish is encouraging people to pray "*Arise with me in the morning, Travel with me through the day, Welcome me on my arrival, God be with me all the way. Amen.*" Mass will be celebrated hourly on the summit of Croagh Patrick from 8am to 2pm, with confessions from 7.30am to 2pm.

COFFEE MORNING in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness hosted by the National Learning Network on **Thursday 21st July @ 1pm** - 6 Grafton Court, Longford. The **NATIONAL LEARNING NETWORK** offers a number of courses in Longford: Employment Based Training; Skills for Life and Catering Skills. Contact 086 8268732 or email Longford@nlm.ie for more information.