

Mullavilly News

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The Magazine
for Mullavilly
Parish

November 2008

The Love of Money

There are many issues that concern us, as Christians, at this present time of financial insecurity. The first is very basic. For a long time, whilst we were enjoying financial wealth, and whilst the value of our properties was increasing rapidly, many people in this world were suffering from desperate poverty, owned no property and had never any opportunity to be given a loan. The present "crisis" means nothing to them, for they have nothing to lose. Sadly, the same crisis will give us another excuse not to give generously when aid is required.

Second, whilst the crisis is based on international banking systems, it does have a significant local and personal impact. If you have a secure income and you don't have to sell your house, then the crisis should have little impact other than an increase in cost of living. You can sit tight and wait for the recovery predicted in 2011. Whilst our local population has enjoyed minimal unemployment in the past, that will no longer be the case. Many houses have been bought on the back of a

**"Failure is an incident,
not an identity"**

Will & John McKee

dual income which may no longer exist. This will be a serious stress factor in many homes. You cannot afford the mortgage, but you cannot downsize your property.

Financial issues factor very highly in marital breakdown and mental health. It is vital that we are aware of these issues so that we can recognise the problems as they arise and deal with them appropriately. In marriage, it will mean greater understanding and sharing and, for individuals, a strategy of thinking that will ensure that you will not lose your self-esteem and feel that you have failed. One of our parishioners, Will McKee, has recently written a book dealing with business, but its principles can apply to our own personal lives. In it, he stresses that "failure is an incident, not an identity." Thus, when the "credit crunch" hits you, you are affected by the failure of the system but you, yourself, are not a failure. Job, of the Old Testament, encountered many failures, but he himself was not a failure. He held firmly to his faith in a loving God who valued him. If you are reading this in a situation of insecurity and uncertainty, be assured that your worth, in God's eyes, has not, and will not, diminish.

Thirdly, as a parish, we must be aware that that some families will have genuine difficulty meeting the targets they have set themselves in giving financially to the church. As a parish, we are in substantial debt and lower interest rates will be to our benefit, but we must also meet our payments schedule. It is imperative that everyone shares this burden according to their ability. If you can give more, then consider doing so. Finally, if you need to talk over any issues and stresses related to unemployment or financial stress, please do so—don't wait until the stress levels get so high that your health or your marriage collapses. Either Sam or myself will be willing to listen to you. Sometimes, a listening ear is all that is needed. If required, we can help you to seek out other useful agencies and services. Above all, we can assure you that, even though the foundation may have been washed away from your plans and hopes, no financial crisis has the power to shake the foundations of even the weakest faith in Christ.

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Can I keep before you the need to inform Sam or myself of any pastoral needs in the parish. Not only does this include hospital admissions (and getting home from hospital), but other issues such as redundancy, family stresses, marital issues and close bereavement. Don't assume that we will "hear" about these things.

On a brighter note (but similar theme), we do enjoy mentioning and celebrating significant birthdays in church. However, please don't complain about being neglected if you haven't actually told me!

And remember: if you want a better minister, you only have to pray for the one you have!

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DATE	FLOWERS	CRECHE	SCRIPTURE	NOTES
Nov 2nd	Sandra Burns	Amanda Stewart Judith Wilson	Helen McClenaghan	11am Holy Communion
Nov 9th	Edith Willis		Rgr John Herbert	REMEMBRANCE 11am Family Service
Nov 16th	Jennifer Brown	Nicola Wilson Mandy Wright	Mary McKee	11am Holy Communion
Nov 23rd	Helen McClenaghan	Tanya McKitterick Ann Rafferty	Elizabeth Harper	7pm Holy Communion
Nov 30th	Valerie Milne	Laura McMullen Jane Black	Rosemary Neill	11am Holy Communion

Flowers are now re-distributed each Monday morning within the parish. If you have a particular person in mind for one of your bouquets, please let Roberta Rafferty know or leave a note under the vase. We are very grateful to Roberta for the time she is giving to this activity.

Refreshments after the family service will be served by Valerie and Rebecca Milne, Anita and Mavis Vennard.

November

3/4/5th Clergy retreat in Dunfanaghy
 Tues 11th "Hard Gospel" seminar, Armagh
 Thurs 13th 3pm Over 55 meeting
 Tues 18th 8pm Mothers' Union Visitors' Night
 Wed 19th 8pm Diocesan Sale, Armagh
 Thurs 20th 8pm Country & Gospel Concert
 Sat 22nd Mothers' Union Quiet day (in Mullavilly)
 Mon 24th 11:15am Holy Communion in Rathowen

Baptism Anniversaries

November:

Nathan Rafferty (3rd); Jessica
Johnston (3rd)

From the Registers

Wedding:

October 25th: Suzi Herbert & David
Ramsay

I will be away from 28th October to November 2nd. In an emergency, please ring the mobile as usual and I will make whatever arrangements are necessary. Sam will be back with us from Australia on November 2nd and will provide pastoral care from November 3rd-5th. On those dates, I will be attending the clergy retreat in Dunfanaghy. This retreat takes place every two years and has been shortened by one day this year due to the costs involved. :(

Due to Alan's recent illness, the Over 55s meetings and coffee mornings have been cancelled. However, there will be an afternoon meeting on Thursday 13th at 3pm. If there are any parishioners who would be able to help with this key organisation, do please volunteer your time.

We continue to pray for those who serve their country and, in particular, those from our parish who have returned from Afghanistan and Iraq and those who are currently on active service there.

Celebrating Education

Mullavilly Primary School has undergone a massive amount of change recently in the staff room. Mrs Pamela McCrum has settled very well into her new role as principal following Mr Whitfield's retirement, Mrs Lowry (formerly Annett) has replaced Mrs Irwin in the reception class and Mrs Glass and Mrs Innocenzi are sharing the p4/5 class. At the end of October, another major change will take place with the retirement of both Mrs Heather Sandford and Mrs Marie O'Neill. Between them, these two teachers have touched the lives of so many people in our parish. They have each shown a passion for teaching and a love for children that has helped our children get to grips with learning and the basic skills of literacy and numeracy. As a church with close links to Mullavilly Primary School, we wish them every blessing in retirement and thank them for their contribution to our community.

Celebrating Baptism

There are a large number of children currently awaiting baptism. This is an ideal opportunity to set aside one particular Sunday to focus on baptism and to renew our own baptism vows. To this end, the first Sunday in January, will be entirely dedicated to baptising and the renewal of vows.

Celebrating Children

Following the initial meeting last month with the crèche volunteers, it was decided not to operate the crèche on family Sundays. However, the Centre will be open for any parents who need to make use of it for baby-changing or if their child has become upset.

As planned, we will pilot a "Children's Church" for KS1 children during church from November 16th to December 14th. If successful, then it can continue after Christmas. Children will leave church before the Scripture readings and return after the sermon. During that time, they will meet in the Choir room for their own Bible reading, a song, story and prayers. It is not a substitute for Sunday School but an enhancement of our hour of worship.

Celebrating in the Diocese

The 2nd edition of the Diocesan magazine, "The Ambassador", will be available on the 2nd November. If you wish to subscribe to this very popular publication, please leave your name with Leslie Stewart.

On November 11th at 8pm the "Hard Gospel" project in the Church of Ireland will be holding a seminar in Church House, Armagh entitled "Dealing with the Past". The guest speaker is Alan McBride who will be addressing some of the difficult issues from the Troubles, including his own loss.

The Hard Gospel is a project which examines sectarianism within the Church and community.

The Diocesan Missionary Sale takes place in the Crozier Hall, Armagh at 8pm on November 19th. This is the very last sale as support has been dwindling over the years. Each parish is asked to supply 3 cakes for sale and we can also leave bric-a-brac, plants, fruit and vegetables etc. Tea and coffee etc will also be served on the night.

The proceeds of the sale are sent to a variety of mission centres, including a hospital in India. We have always included the projects in our mission allocation (£175 this year).

307 people squeezed into church for our Harvest celebrations last month. The evening services were also very well attended. Our thanks are extended to each of our visiting preachers over the weekend.

Strangely, the following week, there were only 79 at the 11am service! You must have been still recovering from the week before!

Think about it:

- *It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.*
- *When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God is there.*
- *Many people want to serve God, but only as advisors!*