

Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea,
Church Road, Bundoran,
Co. Donegal.
Phone: 071 98 41290
Email: bundoran@clogherparishes.ie
Fr. Jeremiah Munyoki C.C.
089-9783314



Church of St. Joseph,
The Rock, Ballyshannon,
Co. Donegal.
Phone: 071 98 41290
Email: bundoran@clogherparishes.ie
Fr. Jeremiah Munyoki C.C.
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Parish Office - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 9th, 2025.
Parish of Magh Éne (Bundoran & St. Joseph's Ballyshannon). Website: www.magheneparish.ie
Facebook: Magh Ene Parish Office Opening Times: 9.30am - 12.30pm Monday to Friday.

"I am a man of unclean lips..."; "Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man."

The readings today point out to different encounters with the Lord. The consistent reaction to all these encounters with God on the part of the human person is one of AWE! The fear of the Lord! A sense of surrender to the Ultimate Other! Faced with the glory of the dwelling of God, Isaiah cries out, "What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips..." the me, Lord; I am a sinful man." (You are mightier than me. Your awesome presence overwhelms me. Your presence demands something from me. And I am not ready. Not yet.)

The experience of God reveals to me my own 'creaturely-ness'. My hidden weaknesses are brought to light. And I am tempted to shy away from that light.

St Teresa of Avila, in her classical work, *The Interior Castle*, speaks about growth in contemplation in seven stages like the seven mansions of a castle. As we climb up the castle of our interior life what we come across at the first mansion is self-knowledge in prayer and contemplation. According to her, this knowledge leaves us with a deep sense of humility.

This is not the end of the journey though, but only the beginning. I would like to add that, in dealing with my self, God takes me through three stages:

1) There is self-awareness: due to the action of

the Grace of God in me I begin to see who I am in the depth of my being. There are many ways of knowing myself – through psychology, for instance. There is a whole battery of tests that you can take to know what type of personality you are, and what psychological disorders you suffer from.

These are still very peripheral. The self-knowledge that is possible in an encounter with God is deep. It is about the core of my self – in terms of your intentions, feelings and tendencies. This knowledge is direct and undeniable. This self knowledge calls for humility, yes! But not discouragement and depression, because I can hear God telling me, "Do not be afraid. I am with you. I am going to make someone out of you."

2. The stage of self awareness then leads me to a stage of self acceptance. Grace of God gives me the strength to own up my true self. This is what we hear from St Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians (15:9) as we heard it in our 2ndreading: "For I am the least of the apostles and am not really fit to be called an apostle..."

3. Grace then leads me from the stage of self acceptance to a stage of alchemy – transformation of a lower element to a higher element. At this level, Abram becomes Abraham (Gen 17:5). Jacob becomes Israel (Gen 32:29). Saul becomes Paul (Acts 13:9). And Simon becomes Peter

(Lk 5:8; Mt 16:18). This transformation in prayer is not like a New Year resolution. But it is a conversion. A metanoia! Again we hear St. Paul telling us in the 2ndreading (1Cor 15:10): "...but what I am now, I am through the grace of God, and the grace which was given to me has not been wasted. Indeed, I have worked harder than all the others — not I, but the grace of God which is with me."



Coffee Morning In Aid of North West Hospice in Rocky's Café, Main Street, Bundoran (Formally Pages Cafe), Saturday February 15th Starting at 10am to 12.30pm. Everybody welcome.



On behalf of Ozanam House we wish to express our sincere thanks to the staff and suppliers who supported us during storm Eowyn. A special mention to Cormac McGurran and BMG Hardware for going out of their way to help. Also a special mention to our volunteer meals and wheels drivers who managed challenging conditions in January.

St. Joseph's Church, The Rock:
Sunday— February 9th at 10am:
James, Agnes, Michael, Mary, Patsy & John Cleary (Dunmuckrim).
Mamie, PJ & Dec Mbs Drummond Family (East Rock).



Canon McGourty P.E. will announce on a day to day basis his availability for Mass etc.

Sunday— February 16th at 10am:
Rian & Cíoadh Tolster (Oranmore).

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**May the Lord protect, guide and help us in the week to come.**  
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Confessions in Bundoran Church:
Every Saturday 5-6pm.

Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Bundoran.
Saturday - February 8th Mass at 7pm
Angela Cassidy (Mountain View).
Mary, Joe & Gerry Roarty (Church Road & Donabate, Dublin).
Peter & Dec Mbs Brady Family (West End).
Pat & Eileen Conlan (Main Street).

Sunday— February 9th Mass at 8.30am:
Packie, Isobel & Harry Corbett (Newtown)
Sunday— February 9th Mass at 11am:
Daria Dolan (Tullan Strand Road) M.M.
Monday – February 10th Mass at 10am.
Dec Mbs of the Hanley & Gilvarry Families (Brandra).
Tuesday— February 11th Mass at 10am.
Paddy & Maria Ann Clancy (Kinlough) & Dec Mbs Brady Family (Rossinver).
Wednesday— February 12th PRAYER SERVICE @ 10am
Thursday February 13th Mass at 10am.
Private Intentions.
Friday February 14th Mass at 10am.
Eamon Melly (St. Colm's Tce).
Saturday - February 15th NO MORNING MASS OR PRAYER SERVICE
Saturday - February 15th Mass at 7pm
Felix Granaghan (St. Colm's Tce).
William, Michael, Tom & Denis Kennedy (Ardfarna).
Sunday— February 16th Mass at 8.30am:
Private Intentions.
Sunday— February 16th Mass at 11am:
People of the Parish.
 **May all who died recently, Rest in Peace.** 
Joe Fowler (Ballycran, County Down).
Geraldine Greene (née Rooney) (St. Benildus Ave, Ballyshannon).