

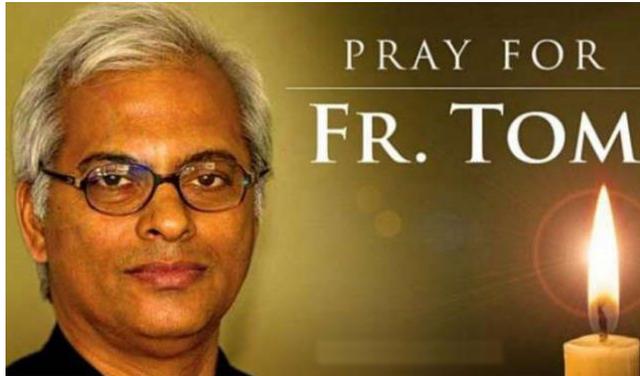
St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-4530387 ---- 01-5611390



14 May 2017

KIDNAPPED PRIEST PLEADS FOR HELP



Salesian Father Tom Uzhunnalil spoke on another video on YouTube asking for help in order to be released. Uzhunnalil was kidnapped in March 2016 and in December of that year he appealed to Pope Francis asking "as a father, please take care of my life," in an unauthenticated video. Fourteen months after his kidnapping in March 2016, Salesian priest Father Tom

Uzhunnalil has appeared in another video asking for help in obtaining his release, criticizing the response of a local bishop and the Indian government. Opening with a word of thanks, Uzhunnalil apparently references either a message he's received, or the general concern surrounding his case. "I received the message of concern that you sent to me, my dear family people. I'm thankful to you. Thank you very much," he said in the video, published on YouTube May 8.

The video, which has not yet been authenticated, shows a cardboard sign with the date April 15, 2017, sitting on the lap of a thin-looking Uzhunnalil, who appears with overgrown hair and a beard. Speaking slowly in English, Uzhunnalil said the Indian government has been contacted several times concerning his release. The bishop of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates has also been contacted, he said, claiming that he's seen their responses, and they were "very, very poor."

The priest indicated that he is in poor health, saying: "my health condition is deteriorating quickly, and I require hospitalization as early as possible," he said. He then made an appeal for his release, asking "my little family people" to do what they can "to help me be released. Please, please do what you can to help me be released. May God bless you for that."

Uzhunnalil was kidnapped in Yemen in March of last year during an attack on a Missionaries of Charity house that left 4 sisters dead. He garnered international attention last spring when rumors spread that he was to be crucified on Good Friday. Those rumors were later discredited. A video was posted to YouTube Dec. 26, 2016, showing Uzhunnalil personally appealing to Pope Francis, and bishops all over the world, for help. "Dear Pope Francis...as a father, please take care of my life," Uzhunnalil said. The five-minute video was the first communication from Uzhunnalil since his abduction. The priest had overgrown hair and spoke slowly from a prepared script.

Pope Francis did appeal for the priest's release April 10, 2016, after his Sunday Regina Coeli address in St. Peter's Square. "I renew my appeal for the freeing of all kidnapped persons in armed conflict zones," the Pope said. "In particular, I wish to remember Salesian priest Tom Uzhunnalil, who was abducted in Aden, Yemen last March 4."

Since his kidnapping, Salesians in the Bangalore province of India have made continued efforts for his safety and release, including holding a prayer vigil Jan. 4 and a worldwide novena Jan. 15-23.

No one has claimed responsibility for the priest's kidnapping, making it difficult for the Indian government to broker the priest's release. In addition, the situation has been exacerbated by the political instability in Yemen. Yemen has been embroiled in civil war since March 2015, when Shia rebels attempted to oust Yemen's Sunni-led government. Saudi Arabia has led a pro-government coalition. Both al-Qaeda and the Islamic State have set up strongholds in the country amid the power vacuum. More than 6,000 people have been killed in the conflict, according to the United Nations.

Courtesy Cruxnow.com

LOCAL POLICING FORUM

You are invited to a public meeting on Thursday 18th May, 7.30pm - 9pm in St. Catherine's Church, Thomas Street, Dublin 8. It's an opportunity to meet Senior Gardaí from Kevin Street as well as Managers from Dublin City Council. You can raise your concerns, share problems and seek solutions whether its about ant-social behaviour, crime or any other issue. All are welcome to attend and participate.

NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 07 May 2017

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p265
2nd Collection: p290
Diocesan Vocations: p60
Family Offering: p437



Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Jimmy O'Brien (2nd anv),
Patrick Rattigan (12th anv).

Sun 11.30: Denis & Julie Hyland,
Richard & Mary Finn, Terry
Walker, Annie Adams, Kathleen &
Frank Burke.



First Holy Communion

Next Sunday the three schools of the Parish will celebrate First Holy Communion. Seats will be reserved for the children and their parents/guardians. There should be plenty of room for everyone. Please note for SAFETY REASONS, there will be no parking in the church yard next Sunday. This is the **only** Sunday there will be First Communions in May.



Annual Mass of Remembrance

Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross is hosting their Annual Mass of Remembrance in St Agnes Church, Crumlin on Monday 15th May 2017 at 7.00pm. All welcome.



Pilgrimage to the Holy land

Dublin / Kildare Group for Christmas Pilgrimage to the Holy land 20th - 28th December 2017 (Last Remaining Seats) for 8 nights. Ex Dublin. Taking in Bethlehem, Jerusalem (Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Last Supper Room and Calvary), Mount Tabor, Cana, Nazareth, Jericho, River Jordan, Dead Sea



Blasphemy Laws

Four years ago an alliance of religious groups in Ireland made a submission to the Constitutional Convention in which they said “the current reference to blasphemy in the Constitution of Ireland is largely obsolete”. Asked about the issue following the latest controversy over the State’s blasphemy laws involving comedian Stephen Fry’s statements on the RTÉ programme *The Meaning of Life*, the groups referred back to the 2013 submission, which was endorsed by 14 churches. In it, they note that the removal of the blasphemy law might “give rise to concern because of the way such measures have been used to justify violence and oppression against minorities in other parts of the world”.

Behind the submission were the Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church, the Antiochian, Greek, Lutheran, Romanian and Russian Orthodox Churches, Cherubim and Seraphim, the Moravian Church, Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Redeemed Christian Church of God, and the Salvation Army. Guarantees for religious freedom might “be better achieved through established or new constitutional and legislative provisions for the protection of freedom of religion, belief and expression, as well as legislation against discrimination and hate crimes,” they said. Rabbi Zalman Lent of the Irish Jewish community recalled how “after the Holocaust there is even a story of rabbis who convened a makeshift court in Auschwitz to put God on trial, and found him guilty!”

Extract Courtesy of The Irish Times

SUNDAY LITURGY - 5th SUNDAY EASTER

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, ‘It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food. You, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word’. The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Psalm 32 May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. R/

2. For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. R/
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. R/

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 14: 10

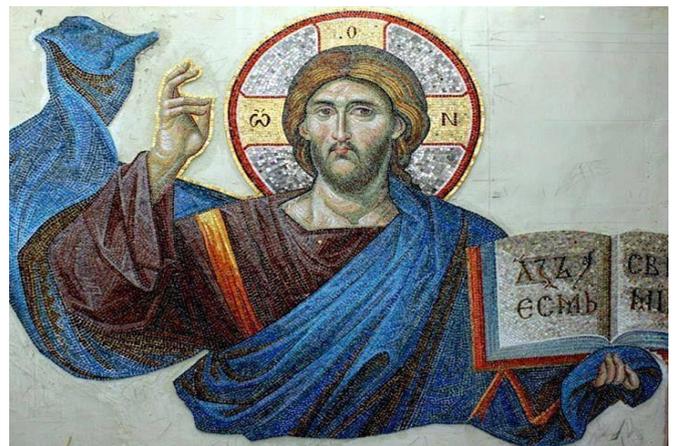
Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.’
Alleluia!

Gospel John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus said: ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.’ Philip said, ‘Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied’. ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip,’ said Jesus to him ‘and you still do not know me?’ ‘To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, “Let us see the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. ‘I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Help us to find God”. “No one can help you there,” said the Master. “Why not?” “For the same reason that no one can help the fish to find the ocean”.

From ‘One Minute Wisdom’ by Anthony de Mello