

# St. Nicholas News

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



24 September 2017

## POPE SAYS CHURCH WAITED TOO LONG TO RESPOND TO ABUSE



Pope Francis has admitted that the Catholic Church waited too long before taking reports of clergy sexual abuse seriously, suggesting that the former practice of moving priests accused of abuse to new ministries instead of reporting them to authorities kept the church numb to the scope of the situation. In his first formal meeting Sept. 21 with the now three-year-old Pontifical Commission for the Protection of

Minors, the pontiff also called "prophetic" the men and women who urged the church for decades to face the problem. "I know it has not been easy to start this work," the pope told the members of the commission in off-the-cuff remarks notable for their frankness. "You have had to swim against the current because there is a reality: the church has taken consciousness about these crimes in a delayed manner." "When the consciousness is delayed, the means for resolving the problem are delayed," said Francis. "I am aware of this difficulty. But it is a reality. I'll say it so: We have come to this late." "Maybe the old practice of moving people around, of not facing the problem, kept our consciousness asleep," the pope suggested. "Thanks to God, the Lord sent prophetic men and women in the church ... who got others involved and began this work to face the problem head-on." Francis told the members of the pontifical commission that while the speech he had prepared for their meeting was important, they had a "right" to hear from him spontaneously in order to learn "how things have come and how they are going" with the church's response to clergy sexual abuse. The commission is meeting in Rome this week for a plenary assembly. While Francis greeted some of the group's members at their first meeting in May 2014, he had never before formally met with them or offered public remarks about their work. The pope's words come as the group has recently faced public questioning of its effectiveness in stopping future abuse of children in the Catholic Church. It is currently operating without any active members who are abuse survivors, following the March 1 resignation of Marie Collins, who cited frustration with Vatican officials' reluctance to cooperate with the group's work. While Francis did not address Collins' resignation directly, he referenced concerns that he said had been raised over how the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith handles cases of clergy abuse, something that Collins has written about for NCR. The pope said he had been asked if responsibility for handling clergy sexual abuse should be moved from the doctrinal congregation to one of the Vatican's tribunal courts. "I believe that for the moment that resolving the problems of abuse has to be under the competence of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith," Francis said. "At this moment, the problem is grave," the pope continued. "It is not only a grave problem; it is grave that some have not taken consciousness of the problem. For this reason it has to remain with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith until the whole church has taken true consciousness of the problem." Francis also spoke about the work of a commission he created in January 2015 to hear appeals of priests accused of sexual abuse. He said that commission, led by Maltese Archbishop Charles Scicluna, is working well but "has to be adjusted a bit, with the [added] presence of some diocesan bishops who have dealt with the problem in situ." The pope announced that he has decided that once a priest is proven to have abused a minor he will no longer be able to appeal his case. "I have decided to rebalance this commission a bit, and also to say that a proven abuse of minors is sufficient to not receive an appeal," he said. "If there's proof, then it's definitive." Francis addressed his power as pope to pardon priests found guilty of abuse. He said frankly: "I have never signed one of these [pardons] and I will never sign one." However, the pope admitted that early in his pontificate he had decided to give one priest accused of abuse a lesser sentence than what the doctrinal congregation had recommended. He said the congregation had recommended the priest be laicized, while a diocesan inquiry had suggested leaving him as a priest but removing him from ministry. (Continue reading at: [www.ncronline.org/news](http://www.ncronline.org/news))

## NOTICES

### Money Matters

Sunday 17 September 2017

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p210  
2nd Collection: p230  
Crosscare: p50  
Family Offering: p300



### Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Patrick Taylor (1st Anniversary), Patrick & Joseph Kelly, Ellen & Jem Brierton, James & Sheila Sarsfield, Michael & Yvonne & Marie Sarsfield, Darren McDonagh, Rose Grogan (6th Anniversary), Stephen Grogan.

Sun 11.30am: Christy Poole (2nd Anniversary), Esther Lyons (Birthday remembrance), Thomas Doran (16th Anniversary)



### Irish Polish Art Exhibition

Weds 20th Sept - Tues 10th Oct, "Earth to Air". Venue: In-spire Gallery, 56 Lr. Gardiner St.



### ConneXions

Are ConneXions is a two-day free forum connecting France and Ireland in the fields of education, culture and digital technology. It will take place on the weekend of the 30th Sept - 1st Oct. at Richmond Barracks, Dublin 8. ConneXions is a Dublin French Tech event. What should you expect? A weekend of exploring the ways digital technology will be impacting tomorrow's city and our ways of living. 5 round table seminars to discuss and debate on issues such as: Will they find a new way for you not to be waiting for the bus under the rain? Will your voice truly impact the way the city is organised? How will tomorrow's school look like in the future: will

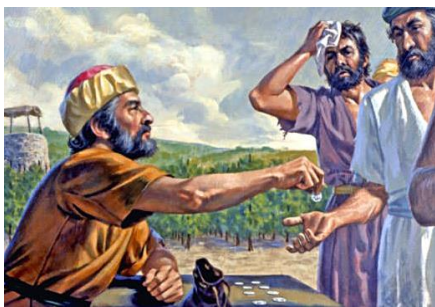
*Sincere thanks to the parishioners who helped to welcome 500 visitors to our church for Culture Night*

they be using pens and schoolbooks? 20 speakers from France and Ireland from big companies such as Accenture, LinkedIn, Veolia, Microsoft, EneDys; universities such as UCD, DCU and University Paris Diderot; media such as Dublin Globe, Silicon Republic; from local authorities such as Dublin City Council and Smart Dublin ... and, of course, cultural institutions La Gaîté Lyrique, Science Gallery, Rua Red. 20+ exhibitors from France and Ireland at the Start-Up Market will showcase their amazing innovations that will make you want to go back to school, learn a new language, help you develop your career, use video to travel ... and much more! LinkedIn, the professional social network, will animate a "Rock your profile" stand, with free coaching for all those young professionals, making sure they get the most out of their professional online profile and network! ConneXions is a free event - Spread the word & get a ticket for you & your friends on <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/connexions-tickets-37192410501>



### St Thomas Abbey Symposium 14th October

The medieval Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr was the genesis for much of the area we know today as 'The Liberties'. The Augustinian abbey was founded in the 12th century on the orders of king Henry II of England and was one of the largest and wealthiest religious houses in Ireland, until its dissolution by a later king Henry in the 1530s. The extensive landholdings of the Abbey then transferred to an ambitious courtier of the king, Sir William Brabazon, whose descendants later became Earls of Meath. The abbey remains are no more, only archaeological evidence remains. However its story is fascinating and surprisingly under-explored. Now Dublin City Council has commissioned an authoritative study of St Thomas's Abbey and its influence on the medieval city by Dr Aine Foley. A publication by the City Council in October will bring together a wealth of knowledge about this influential estate. As part of the events around the publication, a symposium is planned in St Catherine's Church, Thomas Street on Saturday 14th Oct. Booking is free but essential as spaces are limited. Book via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/st-thomass-abbey-conference-tickets-37918167259>



## 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, God's thoughts call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

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

## Psalm 144

### The Lord is close to all who call him

I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.  
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured. R/

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. R/

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. R/

### Gospel Acclamation: Lk 19: 38

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

#### A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 20:1-16

Now the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage". So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too".

In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first". So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

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

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"How can I be a great man like you?" "Why be a great man?" said the Master. "Being a man is a great enough achievement."

*From "One Minute Wisdom" by Anthony de Mello*

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Church opens: 9.30am - 12noon, Mon, Tues, Weds, Friday, Sat(5pm-7pm), Thurs: 9.30am - 11am, Sun: 10am - 12.15pm

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