



17th Sunday Ordinary Time – 28 July 2024

NEARLY 2,000 NEW HOUSEHOLDS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS



More than 1,950 new households that contacted Threshold between April and June this year were at risk of homelessness. The housing charity has said that 40% of those who sought help from its advisors in that period did so on the grounds of tenancy termination. Threshold has said tenancy termination remains the biggest issue facing clients, but where possible, it

assisted households to remain in their homes or secure alternative homes. However, it has pointed out that this is becoming "increasingly challenging" due to the availability of fewer rental properties, and the fact that landlords are within their rights to evict for the purposes of sale. It has called for the development of a unitary housing system, which would include an integrated rental market, where social and cost-rental housing is accessible to a larger number of households across a broader range of income levels. An increase in social and affordable housing would in turn create competition with the private rental sector according to the charity. It has pointed out that a unitary housing system, as seen in Sweden, would see the State increase the number of social and cost-rental housing units, to comprise at least 25% of the total housing stock. CEO John-Mark McCafferty has said alternative options are needed for those struggling to pay high rents. "A unitary housing system is a more equitable system, which would provide more affordable housing, and one we should strive towards," he said. Threshold's 'We Are Generation Rent' report, which was published last month, showed that 74% of the charity's clients struggle to pay bills and other household expenses after paying rent. While traditionally associated with young people navigating early career stages or education, Generation Rent now encompasses a diverse demographic that extends beyond just young people, reflecting a broader societal shift towards renting rather than homeownership. 2022 Census data, showed that a growing number of those aged 40 and over are now living in private rental accommodation.

Courtesy Ailbhe Conneely – RTE

Pope Appeals for Olympic Truce

Pope Francis on expressed his hope that the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games provide the opportunity for warring nations to respect an ancient Greek tradition and establish a truce for the duration of the Games. He recalled that this week the Paris Olympic Games will begin, followed by the Paralympic Games, and noted that "Sport also has a great social power, capable of peacefully uniting people from different cultures." "I hope that this event can be a sign of the inclusive world we want to build and that the athletes, with their sporting testimony, may be messengers of peace and valuable models for the young," he said.



Remembered this weekend

William Stacey (1st A)
John, Josephine, Mary and Joan Hannon
Chrissie De Vesey
Johnny Hand
Joe Poole
John & Maureen Joyce
John & Lily Goulding
Margaret, Michael & Margaret Kinsella
Evelyn O'Neill



Bereavement Support

The Irish Hospice Foundation provides a free Bereavement Support Line. This National Freephone Service is available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday, by calling 1800 807077. Visit www.hospicefoundation.ie for more information.



St. Audeon's Family Fun day

This Sunday 2pm–6pm in St. Audeon's Park. Magicians, Face painters, Party Bears and much more. This raps up the Liberties Festival for this year.



Saint James's hospital is delighted to announce the launch of a new hospital wide Patient Volunteer Service. The service, which will commence in September, will provide personal and practical support to patients and visitors attending St. James's Hospital. From simply helping someone check in for their clinic appointment, or guiding a patient to their clinic destination, the service aims to have a positive impact on our patients and visitors experience in the hospital.

We are currently recruiting volunteers for the service. If you know anyone who would interested in volunteering please ask them to contact the team for a friendly chat on 087 499 5792 or email; teamvolunteer@stjames.ie

17TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Penitential Rite

As we begin our celebration, rejoicing in the Lord, let us remember God's tenderness and compassion.

In your mercy you call us to belong to you.
Lord have mercy

From your goodness, we are made into one family.
Christ have mercy

By your love you defeat everything that would rob us of our dignity. Lord have mercy

May our great and gracious Lord, who has conquered selfishness and isolation, have mercy on us, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

Ephesians 4:1-6

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia

John 6:1-15

The Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee or of Tiberias and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover. Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave

thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

Prayer of the Faithful

Praise to you, Father, Son and Spirit; community of love and compassion. May your love shape our lives.
Lord hear us

May our celebration as a community, draw us closer to one another and to God.
Lord hear us

May Prayer, of this community lead us to look to the needs of those who are struggling in life. Lord hear us

We remember those families among us who are suffering the pain of bereavement. May we be their support, as we look to the day when we will all be united again.
Lord hear us

Lord, let the ideals of the gospel transform our church and our world so that addressing the real needs of people will always be our first concern. Lord hear us

We stand in silence and solidarity with all who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us



Reflection

Our world desperately needs to come in from the lost islands of desiccated individualism and learn to stand again on the fecund earth where vibrant and vital interaction can happen between people. Our world is facing so many crises ecologically, economically, and spiritually. These cannot be overcome by isolated individuals. We need to come together. There is incredible power in a community of people who are together because they care, and who are motivated by the ideals of compassion and creativity. When such a community develops and maintains its own vision, it will not fall into the trap of being prisoners of reaction and beginning to resemble more and more the opposition. It will not deconstruct in the introverted power games, but maintain its care and critical focus. When such a prophetic community is nourished by prayer and animated by Divine Longing, the harvest of creativity and belonging which it can bring is unlimited.