

PERSPECTIVE

Perspective is all about reality and balance. Artists spend their lives working at it so that their pictures make sense. The dictionary defines the word as “a picture or model that seems confused except when viewed in the right direction”.

Today’s readings seem all about perspective. From what direction do we view life in trying to make sense of it and live in a rewarding way? This is the whole point of any Scripture - Jewish, Christian, Islamic or otherwise. How do we make sense of life? Not easy!

From Jeremiah, we have two options: trust in man i.e. earthly things, and never be satisfied. A sort of Global Warming in the soul is suggested by the imagery: “dry scrub in the wasteland”; “parched places in the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited” and the worst phrase of all “if good comes, he has no eyes for it”. The other option is to trust in things not “earthly”, in what we cannot see, in what cannot be explained by the ‘here and now’. This doesn’t come naturally. Let us not ignore the warning signs, however. There are plenty of them!

The familiar words of the Beatitudes - sometimes referred to as the “beautiful attitudes”- turn accepted perspective on its head: “Alas for you who have your fill now... alas for you who laugh now....alas for you who are rich...alas for you when the world speaks well of you...” St Luke’s version is interesting because of the phrase “fixing His eyes on His disciples”. We tend to think of the Sermon on the Mount as being addressed to a huge crowd. St Luke’s version suggests that it was addressed directly to the disciples and the huge crowd also heard it.

We are disciples, committed Christians, followers of Christ. We must take on board the message of the Scriptures and try to put into practice what we hear. We must further nourish our souls by praying, i.e. ‘raising our hearts and minds to God’. To return to Jeremiah, we then fit the image of “the tree ...that thrusts its roots to the stream; when the heat comes it feels no alarm.... it has no worries in a year of drought and never ceases to bear fruit”. The ‘fruit’ is for ‘the huge crowd’ to enjoy as well.

To paraphrase a psalm we sing this morning at Holy Communion:

“I love you more than Gold and Silver, only you can satisfy;
You alone are the real Joy-Giver and the Apple of my Eye”

This is the right perspective on life.

Skerries Church Choir

MONTH’S MIND

Sunday 24th Feb 9.30am: Mary Brannagan
Sunday 24th Feb 11am: Richard Ruigrok,
Angela Lynch (also 90th Birthday)

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Friday 22nd Feb 10am: Janice Boylan
Saturday 23rd Feb 6pm: Oliver Trainor
Sunday 24th Feb 11am: Janice Downing

ANNIVERSARIES & INTENTIONS REMEMBERED

- ✠ **Sat 16th Feb** 6pm: John Beggs, Helen Branagan, Mary Cawley, Michael Conlon
- ✠ **Sun 17th Feb** 9.30am: Anne O’Sullivan
- ✠ **Sun 17th Feb** 11am: Fr Michael Flanagan, John & Clare McGrotty, Michael & Bernadette Rice, Special Intention
- ✠ **Tue 19th Feb** 10am: Christopher Radley, Francis & Peggy Ryan, John O’Dwyer, Florence Coulter, Theresa McManus, Patrick Lawlor
- ✠ **Wed 20th Feb** 10am: Eva McGinty
- ✠ **Thurs 21st Feb** 10am: Gerry Mansfield

FEAST DAY

Friday 22nd Feb – the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle

WE WELCOME

Jack O’Neill who was recently baptised into our parish family.



EMMANUEL PROJECT

The next Emmanuel Project Mass (Youth Mass) will take place on **Saturday 23rd February at 6pm.**

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR ACCORD

This annual collection for ACCORD, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will take place at all Masses this weekend. This collection will replace the usual Share collection. ACCORD Dublin throughout the diocese offers: Marriage Preparation Courses; Counselling for couples & individuals experiencing difficulties in the relationships and Relationship & Sexuality Programmes for Schools. ACCORD Dublin needs your support. Please give generously.



PARISH BOOK CLUB



This month we are reading **Becoming Human** by **Jean Vanier**. In this book, Jean Vanier, (the founder of L'Arche - a network of communities for people with intellectual disabilities) explores

how the liberation of the human heart from loneliness and fears that provoke us to exclude and reject others, leads us to the discovery of our common humanity. We will meet on **Thursday February 28th** at **7.30pm** in **42 Strand Street** for a chat about the book. All are welcome.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT



A St Patrick's day concert will be held in St Patrick's Church, Skerries from 5pm – 7pm on **Sunday March 17th**.

Full musical programme to follow next week. Save the date! All welcome.

EMMANUEL IN THE HELIX



The countdown is on to this fantastic annual music festival of faith for young people! This year, 66 schools and over 2500 students have been busy rehearsing. Emmanuel gets underway

in the Helix on **Monday 25th February** and runs until **Thursday 28th** (inclusive) at **7.30pm** nightly. You are invited to come and support your local school in what is always an uplifting and energising experience. Lists of schools for each night available on www.litmus.dublindiocese.ie

FUN MUSIC NIGHT

Come join us for this fun music night on **Friday 22nd February** in Skerries Sailing Club at 8pm in aid of **St. Francis Hospice, Raheny**. For enquiries, please contact Anne Carroll - mob 086 8630554.

RELAUNCH OF SKERRIES TIDY TOWNS WILDLIFE INITIATIVE

Are you interested in getting some free plants and at the same time doing your bit to save our endangered bees and butterflies?

As you may know, our pollinators are drastically falling in numbers because of lack of food and nesting spaces, increased use of pesticides and new pests and diseases.

In an effort to help protect our bees and butterflies, Skerries Tidy Towns is aiming to make Skerries a pollinator-friendly town. To encourage everyone to plant pollinator-friendly plants, we are offering you up to three FREE plants (while stocks last) for your garden.

To register for this scheme and to get a list of plants to choose from, contact either resamoore15@icloud.com or

www.skerriesparish.ie - please visit our parish website for news and events

joanguildea@gmail.com



SKERRIES LADIES BOWLS

Next ladies' meeting on **Monday 18th**. We will hold the Monday competition at 10.30 and follow up with the meeting at approx. 12noon. Hope to see all lady members there. It's not too late to join the Monday competition, as there are 8 weeks still left.

SPRING IN YOUR STEP WALK IN AID OF ST FRANCIS



HOSPICE. Why not put a spring in your step and join us for a Family Walk in St. Anne's Park at 1pm on **Saturday 9th March**. Refreshments and fun activities

for children will follow the walk. Entry Fee €20 per adult and children are free. To register for the walk: Online www.sfh.ie Telephone: 01-8327535 or drop into St Francis Hospice Reception.

BALBRIGGAN & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Balbriggan & District Horticultural Society are holding a garden talk by Denise Dunne from The Herb Garden Naul entitled 'Medicinal Herbs & Safe Natural Remedies'. It will take place on **Thurs 21st Feb** at **8:30pm** in the Scouts Den, Market Green, Balbriggan (beside Lidl.) Admission €4 which includes tea biscuits and a plant & seed swap. For more information Tel 087 7520506.

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB



And so it begins...26 of our teams in action this weekend. Good luck to all.

Sunday. Senior League v St Vincents, in Div.1 and Inters v Raheny in Div.4 both games away at 10.30; Juniors v Castleknock, away at 3pm. Minor Hurlers home to Ballyboden at 11.00 and Senior Camogie v Thomastown/Kilkenny, home at 1pm.

Gaelic for Mothers and Others are back training on Mondays at 9pm. No experience needed - Chris has the details on 087 9725519

Zingo 5, 1, 4, 7, 6, 3, 2. Jackpot now €3,700. Draw on Sundays at 6.30pm.

Membership Fees are due - full details on club website or forms available in Bar.

Fri 22 Feb. Junior Disco at 8pm- Féile team fundraiser. **Sat 2 Mar** Cheltenham Preview Night at 8pm in association with SYSS, with a great line up of racing experts. Tickets from Fergal 086 8984657 Clubhouse open for all TV sport on Saturdays and Sundays. Rooms available for functions, parties, meetings etc. Ring Pat 087 2505479 or see www.skerriesharps.ie

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - MCBRIDE

The family of the late Michael (Mick) McBride wish to thank Pioneer Home Care nurses from St Francis Hospice and Beaumont Hospital. We would also like to extend a warm thank you to our neighbours and

friends and a very special thanks to the East Coast
Motor Cycle Club for their Guard of Honour.