

CLONGUISH PARISH NEWSLETTER

10th July, 2016

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No Weekday Masses This Week

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEKEND

Vigil: Not booked

10.30am. Eileen McGee.

NEXT WEEKEND

Vigil: Mick and Mai Barden

10.30am. John and Brigid Ghee / Hannah and Michael Mullervy /

Patrick O'Keeffe

Next Weekend

Readers—Vigil: *Eugene O'Brien*

10.30am. *Laura Hussey*

E. Ms.---Vigil: *Gary Hughes*

10.30am. *Joann Quinn*

Feast Day

July 14th St Camillus DeLellis (1550-1614)

Born in Chieti, Italy, of a noble family, he entered the Army and served in Venice and Spain. After his ordination he devoted his life to serving the sick and founded the Camillians also known as Servants of the Sick.

Novena of St Camillus

The Novena of St Camillus will be celebrated in the Camillian Nursing Home, Killucan, Co Westmeath from July 14th – July 17th. There will be a special Mass each day of the Novena at 7.00pm.

July 16th Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Mount Carmel is in Northern Israel. Carmelite Hermits lived here as early as the 12th century and from there they spread out through Europe. Mount Carmel is the spiritual home of the Carmelite Order. Legend has it that Our Lady gave the brown Carmelite scapular to St Simon Stock in England on July 16th 1252.

The Good Samaritan

At first hearing, the meaning of today's parable of The Good Samaritan seems clear: if you see someone in need or in danger, you should reach out to that person, even at cost to yourself. If that's all it means, then we don't need this homily; the story speaks for itself. **But there's more to it.** If that was all Jesus wanted to tell his hearers, he shouldn't have made the hero a Samaritan. We say the Good Samaritan, but as far as many of the Jewish people of that time were concerned, the only good Samaritan was a dead Samaritan! For centuries there had been deep-seated hatred between the two peoples. Today, for "Samaritan" read "**Palestinian**", and you get the idea.

The lawyer asks Jesus, "**Who is my neighbour?**" (emphasis added). At first sight Jesus instead seems to tell him what it means to be a neighbour—to reach out and help. But in a subtle way he tells him *who* the neighbour is by making him not a fellow Jew but a foreigner, an outsider, a member of a despised ethnic group. In the battered, bleeding man by the side of the road, the Samaritan sees not a Jew but a fellow human being who desperately needs his help. And he does what we all like to think we would have done in those circumstances.

This story must have bothered those who first heard it; it was threatening to them. **What about us?** The name Samaritan has no negative connotation today. But think of other names of other races, other nationalities, other religions, other ethnic groups. Do any of them arouse negative feelings in you? If you feel no hostility at all to any of them, you are most unusual. It means you have grasped one of the central features of Jesus' message: that in the sight of God, differences of race, nationality, and sex have no importance compared to our common humanity. Christianity is a universal religion. It teaches that all men and women are sons and daughters of God, members of one great big family, all equally deserving of our respect and concern. There is no place for prejudice, disrespect, or discrimination. It is obvious that this is one of Christianity's greatest failures. Down through the centuries and in our own day, Catholics and other Christians have a sad history of tribalism, a spirit of "us" against "them" that makes us fall short of the ideal.

James DiGiacomo, SJ

