

## THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 18:15-20

1. At the time Matthew was writing his gospel local church communities would have numbered no more than fifty people. They would be known to one another. Matthew presents the instructions of Jesus for dealing with people whose behaviour disrupted and harmed the community. Note the steps suggested. Simple directions, but many of us do otherwise. We avoid difficult confrontations. We talk about the faults of others to everyone but themselves. We go over the head of someone who displeases us and make complaints. In your experience, which approach is life-giving for you and for others?
2. While Jesus is referring to a group situation, the advice can be applied also to personal difficulties and problems with others. What lessons has life taught you about constructive ways of dealing with conflict?
3. As individuals and communities we have the power to bind and to loose, to exclude people from relationship, or to open up and include others in relationship. When have you found it important to acknowledge this power in your own life?
4. Jesus also promises to be with his followers when they gather together. What does that mean to you? How have you experienced the presence of Jesus in his followers gathered together?

John Byrne osa  
Email jpbymeosa@gmail.com  
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### MUSINGS: I will give you rest

Opening ourselves to ideas, including those with which we disagree, this is what the good traveller should do. Happy are they who understand the words, 'If you disagree with me you have something to give me.'

If those who are with you always agree with you before you open your mouth, they are not companions but shadows. When disagreement is not a form of systematic blocking, when it arises from a different vision, it can only enrich us.

It is possible to travel alone. But the good traveller knows that the journey is human life, and life needs company. 'Companion' means, etymologically, the person who eats the same

weary companions. He guesses when they lose heart. He takes them as he finds them, listens to them. Intelligently, gently, above all lovingly, he encourages them to go on and recover their joy in the journey.

Dom Helder Camara, Essential Writings, Modern Spiritual Masters Series

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### THE DEEP END: Community Living

No community is without its problems. Wherever two or three are gathered, there will be two or three different opinions!

Today's gospel has a valuable message about community. When we think of our own parish or church community, we might feel uncomfortable with the advice on how to deal with sin. But this passage is just as relevant now as it was to the early Church. First of all, it acknowledges that the Church is not perfect; it is made up of sinners, who will go astray and disagree at different times. It emphasises the importance of dialogue – if a brother (or sister) sins, the first step is to discuss it with them, and then to enlist the help of the community if necessary. Presumably the other members will do the same for you, if and when you need it. We all have a responsibility, as members of the Church, to help those who are struggling or lost.

If you have a spare few minutes, read the passages that come immediately before and after this one in Matthew's Gospel. Before, the parable of the lost sheep tells us that God rejoices when one who has gone astray is found. After, Jesus tells us we should forgive each other as many as seventy-seven times. The context is God's generous love and forgiveness, on which we are expected to model our Church. Jesus is present where two or three meet in his name – even with our human struggles and disagreements and sins. We have a responsibility to be present to each other, and to forgive one another. That's what it means to be Christ's Church.

Triona Doherty  
Athlone, Co Roscommon  
Email trionad@gmail.com

## MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

The next meeting of the Lay Ministers of the Eucharist will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00 pm at the Parish Centre.

All Ministers and intending Ministers are asked to attend to enable rotas for weekend Masses, for Christmas Services and Holy Communion to the housebound to be drawn up.

Parishioners who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them on Sundays after the 10.00 or 11.30 Mass are invited to send word to us through the Sacristy.

## MILFORD HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING

This will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September in the Parish Centre. If you wish to donate €2.00 (or any other amount) on that morning, the proceeds will go to the Milford Care Centre. Thank you for your continued generosity.

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The annual Mass for the Bereaved will be celebrated on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm. Refreshments afterwards in the Parish Centre.

**THE HOSPITALITY GROUP** welcome you back on WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017, and every WEDNESDAY, for the usual cuppa and chat after the 10.00 a.m. Mass in the PARISH CENTRE.

**THE MONDAY AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER** will commence 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER at the usual time of 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

## CHANGES TO MASS TIMES

**No 5.45pm** weekday Mass until Autumn  
**No Adoration** on Mondays or Fridays.

## PARISH WEBSITE

[www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie](http://www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie)

Fr. Des McAuliffe P.P. Tel: 061 324825  
Fr. Tom. Ryan C.C. Tel: 087 2997733  
Parish Clerk: Margaret Clifford at *Church Sacristy*  
Tel: **325288**

Office Hours: 09:00-09:45 Weekdays  
09:00-12.30 Sunday

## MASS TIMES:

### Weekends

Saturday Vigil 18:00  
Sunday 10:00; 11:30

### Weekdays:

Mon to Fri 10:00  
Saturday 09:45

### Baptisms:

Saturday 17:00  
Sunday 12:15

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Sat 9th</b>	<b>18:00</b>	<b>Ian Cumisky (A)</b> <b>John O'Connor (A)</b>
<b>Sun 10th</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Paddy Mulrooney (A) and</b> <b>Deceased Members of</b> <b>Mulrooney Family</b>
	<b>11.30</b>	<b>Glen Quinn (1<sup>st</sup> A)</b>
<b>Mon 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>George Gleeson</b> <b>No Evening Mass</b>
<b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Jack and Peg Kirby (A)</b> <b>No Evening Mass</b>
<b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Carmel and Tom Corbett (A)</b>
<b>Thurs 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Alger O'Connor (A)</b>
<b>Fri 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Michael Brosnan, (Birthday</b> <b>Rem.); Kitty Dennehy (A)</b>
<b>Sat 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>09:45</b> <b>18:00</b>	<b>John Creagh (Rec. Dec.)</b> <b>Billy Hurley (A)</b>
<b>Sun 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b> <b>11.30</b>	<b>Tom and Bridget Callinan (A)</b> <b>Donal Curtin (A)</b>