



Parish of Saint Columbanus, Loughlinstown



POPE FRANCIS' REFLECTION ON THE 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In the parable in today's Gospel reading, that of the merciful King (see *Mt* 18:21-35), twice we find this plea: **"Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full"** (vv. 26, 29).

The heart of the parable is the indulgence the master shows towards his servant with the bigger debt. The evangelist underlines that, **"moved with compassion the master"**— we should never forget these words of Jesus: **"Have compassion"**, Jesus always had compassion – **"moved with compassion the master let him go and forgave him the loan"** (v. 27). An enormous debt, therefore a huge remission! But that servant, immediately afterwards, showed himself to be pitiless towards his companion, who owed him a modest sum.

In the parable we find **two different attitudes: God's** – represented by the king who forgives a lot, because God always forgives – and the **human person's**. The **divine attitude is justice pervaded with mercy, whereas the human attitude is limited to justice.** Jesus exhorts us to open ourselves with courage to the strength of forgiveness, because in life not everything can be resolved with justice. We know this.

How much suffering, how many wounds, how many wars could be avoided if forgiveness and mercy were the style of our life! Even in families, even in families! How many families are disunited, who do not know how to forgive each other. How many brothers and sisters bear **resentment** within! **It is necessary to apply merciful love to all human relationships: between spouses, between parents and children, within our communities, in the Church and also in society and politics.**

Crosscare Collection This Weekend Annual Appeal for Homeless Prevention Services



This will replace the Share Collection

Please support the Crosscare collection if you can this weekend or you can donate online at www.crosscare.ie
Crosscare envelopes are also available at the back of the Church.

Centering Prayer Workshop

Do you seek the still, quiet voice of God?

This workshop will help us to understand the Presence of God within each of us and our intimate relationship with that Presence.

A simple meditation practice known as Centering Prayer will be introduced as a method to help us **"rest in God"**

We will experience two periods of Centering Prayer practice during the day, and also explore the benefits of Centering Prayer in ordinary life.

All are welcome to attend - those new to Centering Prayer and those re-viewing the method.

The program will be presented in:

The Cherith Pastoral Center, Church of St Columbanus, Loughlinstown - by Finbarr O'Leary

Commissioned Presenter of Centering Prayer Contemplative Outreach Dublin

Saturday September 30th 10am-3.30pm OR Saturday October 7th - 10am - 3.30pm

Cost €20 per person (Please bring your own lunch - Tea/Coffee will be available)

To book a place, please email Finbarr at finbarr25f@gmail.com

Loughlinstown Community Rooms

Loughlinstown Over 50's Club are hosting a Coffee Morning in the Community Rooms

In conjunction with Social Inclusion Week

Wednesday 11th October At 10.am

All welcome

New members to the over 50's club always welcome

The Partnership of Parishes Youth Faith Group

The Partnership of Parishes in our area is launching a Youth Faith Group, meeting on Wednesdays from 7.30pm to 9pm in Johnstown Parish Centre. The group kicks off next Wednesday 20th September with a Youth Alpha, an series of evenings of faith, food and fun. Young people aged 12-18 are welcome.

Parents can sign up their children at confirmationreunion.weebly.com/ or contact Rosemary on 087-2805438

The Parish Office will be closed next week - Reopens on Tuesday 26th September

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Contemplative Outreach

