

Fifth Sunday of the Year

Fourth of February 2018



MASS TIMES: As usual, see the noticeboard

Lately Dead

Denis Miles, Marie Oldham
and Alan Roberts.

Anniversaries

Shirley Beckitt, Eric Burke,
Eileen Crossland, Peggie
Krinks, Charles Raymond,
May Rice and Margaret
Sullivan.

Birthday Memories

Frank Connor, P. Duffy,
Maura Murray and Martha
Robinson.

**SPUC: Next Sunday
(11 February 2018)
there will be the
White Flower appeal**

NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN:
Contact **Stephanie**
737 6419 or
stephmcdonough@hotmail.co.uk

So to end with my
favourite quotations
from the eminent
French doctor,
Professor Courvoisier:

"The task of the nursing
profession is sometimes to
heal, often to give and
always to bring
consolation"
"Whether they are aware
of it, whether they are
believers or not, this is
from a Christian view
fundamental, that nurses
by their profession are
fellow workers with God"

Theme: Suffering and Care of the Sick

**"He cured many who
were sick"**

Why Suffering?

We don't know. Many great
minds, philosophers and
theologians have wrestled
with this question and
found no answers.

In today's Gospel Our Lord
doesn't philosophise, He
ACTS. He faces the sick
with the love of God. He
CARES.

Our Lord's whole life was a
life of SERVICE. After all
one day he himself will
experience the suffering
and pain of his PASSION
and he too will cry out,
asking God why he had
abandoned him. As
Christians we are asked to
show the same
commitment.

"Sickness shows us what we
are" (A Latin Proverb)

And the funnies:

- * There are three stages of sickness (1)ILL (2)PILL (3)BILL. And sometimes there is another (4)WILL!!!
- * You know, when I was seriously ill I discovered that money wasn't really important. Every day I called God. Not once did I call Nat West!!!
- * Tell me straight Doctor, is it bad? Well, I wouldn't start watching any new soap operas!!!
- * "Fr John, you'll live to be 80." "But I am 80." "See, what did I tell you."!!!

Yes, despite suffering, evil and heartbreak, life **IS** worth living.

The Pathway of Pain

If my days were untroubled, my heart always light,
would I seek that fair land where there is no night?

If I never grew weary with the weight of my load, would
I search for God's peace at the end of the road?

If I never knew sickness and never felt pain, would I
search for a hand to help and sustain?

If I walked not with sorrow and lived without loss,
would my soul seek solace at the foot of the cross?

If all I desired was mine day by day, would I kneel
before Good and earnestly pray?

If God sent no 'Winters' to freeze me with fear, would I
yearn for the warmth of the Spring every year?

I ask myself this, and the answer is plain, if my life was
all pleasure and never knew pain,

I'd seek God less often and need Him much less, for
God's sought more often in time of distress,

And no one knows Good, or sees Him as plain, as those
who have met Him ON THE PATHWAY OF PAIN.

January Winners of the Parish 500

£50

£25

No. 157



Number 3

£25

No. 164

Fr. John