

Pallottine Voices

Summer

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Pallottine Fathers Thurles Co Tipperary Ireland E41A271 Tel. (0504) 23678/2120 Web: pallottines.ie Email: palmissions@gmail.com

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Jubilee 2025

The Year of Hope

Fr Martin Mareja SAC



On the 9th of May this year, Pope Francis promulgated an official decree that established that 2025 would be a Holy Year.

A holy year is a once-every-quarter-century event that is expected to bring over 32 million pilgrims from all over the world to Rome. He wants the coming Jubilee Year to be lived as a “year of hope”, very symbolic indeed when our world is witnessing many brutal and unending wars.



A Jubilee year is a special year of grace, in which the Catholic Church offers all the faithful the possibility of asking for a plenary indulgence – a remission of sins for themselves and our loved ones who have gone before us.

He invites us to re-discover the importance of prayer in our personal lives and community. “Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity.”

Official guidelines for these celebrations have been given as follows: “The bishops are invited to promote diverse initiatives on the diocesan level for the faithful as “pilgrims of prayer” such as courses, schools of prayer, and so on.

As practical help, the Dicastery for Evangelization, which is responsible for the organization of the coming jubilee year, published a series of “Prayer Notebooks” based on many forms of prayer from the rich Catholic tradition.

The Notebooks can be found on the special jubilee website: jubilaeum2025.va An even more immediate way to take part in the Jubilee Year is to volunteer. There are no restrictions on age or nationality.

Pope Francis announced that through pilgrimages, works of mercy, acts of penance, and more, are ways Catholics can

obtain an indulgence during the celebratory year. For all those who may not be able to go to Rome to walk through the Holy Door to obtain special indulgences, we can still obtain these graces, along with the specified requirements for the Jubilee indulgences.

The following are required:

- Have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin.
- Have sacramentally confessed our sins 20 days before or after receiving the indulgence.
- Receive the Holy Eucharist.
- Pray for the intentions of the pope. This can usually be done by praying one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

I was doing further studies in Rome during the celebration of the Holy Year in 2000. I was blessed to have the opportunity to walk through the Holy Door in Saint Peter’s then. It represents walking from the life of sin into a new life of grace in Christ, and from darkness into light.

The Jubilee 2025 celebration is for us Catholics an opportunity not to be missed.

Cemetery Sunday 2024

Our Pallottine Cemetery Sunday will take place on Sunday the 8th of September at the cemetery in Cabra, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Unfortunately, there is no Eircode for the cemetery but the neighbor who lives directly opposite our entrance gate offered his code (E41 K407) as a guide for you.

If the weather is bad, you can stay in your car as a public address system will be set up for the day and you will hear everything from your car. We hope you will be able to join us on that day.

Concelebrated Mass will be offered at 3.00 p.m. in the cemetery for the response of the souls of our deceased Pallottines, relatives and friends.

Should it be raining on the day we are providing a marquee for shelter from the weather. Light refreshments will be offered after Mass.

As you may be the only member of your family we have contacted, please extend an invitation to other members of your family to join us in praying for our dead.

We look forward to seeing you on this special occasion. May the Lord bless you with good health and His Peace.



Jubilee Celebrations Thurles May 2024

Fr Liam McClarey SAC

A jubilee is defined in the dictionary as ‘a special anniversary of an event’. Today we gather to express our gratitude to God for the

50 years of priestly ministry of Tommy Ryan and Seamus Whelan, and for sixty years of the priestly ministry of Mike Barry and Kevin Ward. We also as a Province remember today Basil Ikhula in our Mass of Thanksgiving. The shared celebrations for our previous joint 50th and 60th anniversaries occurred on the weekend of the Feasts of the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 2021.

to be exact. Today’s added verses speak of accomplishment as completion. I do not think that either Tommy or Seamus (or indeed Basil, Mike and Kevin) would see their mission as being finished or completed at this stage.

The Gospel passage concludes with the witness of ‘blood and water.’ Of course, John will speak elsewhere of the Spirit as the third witness. However, perhaps today it is important to focus our attention on what the Gospel of this Memorial Day says. Blood and water refer to the Sacrament of Baptism and the sacrifice of the Eucharist. Both of which in their respective ways help create, sustain and develop the Church, which today we honour Mary as Mother of God.

Water and Baptism is an obvious link and Baptism is central to any ecclesiology and especially that of Pallotti. In recent conversations on Synodality here in Ireland the importance of our common Baptism is a starting point for



Today, thanks to the initiative of Pope Francis in 2019, the Church celebrates the Feast day of Mary, Mother of the Church. I am not doubting that Seamus and Tommy were aware of this relatively ‘new’ Feast day when they were discussing what days coincided in their respective times at home in Ireland.

Today’s Gospel contains the initial verses from Saturday’s Pallottine Feast of Our Lady Queen of the Apostles and then continues for several more verses, 28–34

many. Many (from outside the Pallottine family) who read our works on the Founder are struck by his emphasis on our ‘being made in the image and likeness of God.’ They view this as preceding Baptism. All of our jubilarians have put this care for all humanity into practice throughout their lives, wherever they have found themselves.

Blood links us to the Eucharist, but I think it is important to acknowledge literally the times when blood was accompanied by sweat and tears in the apostolic efforts of our confreres on different Continents.

There is always a danger that we focus on ‘our works’. Indeed we may arguably do the same in reference to Pallotti himself, with reference to his ‘Procuras’. Today as we mark your years of service it is important to acknowledge the faith content of ‘your labours and works’ individual and communitarian. This faith in the Triune God, this faith in the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Society, this Faith in our Communion of Saints, the support and prayers from family, friends parishioners and other members of the

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Province. Some refer to yesterday, the Feast of Pentecost, as “the birthday of the Church.” Other commentators point to Good Friday as the birth of the Church.

Pope Benedict is quoted as saying “there is no Church without Pentecost and there is no Pentecost without the Virgin Mary.” Mary in the Pallottine image of the Cenacle has her hands joined in prayer. Prayer is the ‘hidden aspect’ of the priest’s life, nurturing the apostolic side of his life.

Today our prayer for our five jubilarians of 2024 – three celebrating fifty years and two celebrating sixty years – is that the presence and giftedness of the Holy Spirit, the prayerfulness of Our Lady along with the witness of ‘blood and water’ may support you in your continued service of the Society, of the Church and of all God’s people who you encounter in your lives.

The Eucharist: it gives me life.

I know it’s Jesus.

Fr Liam Donovan SCA

At the time of writing this article I am lucky to be in the Costa del Hastings enjoying the early August sunshine. While I’ve been covering here for the week, the recurring theme has been the Eucharist. This may seem obvious to say since that is the primary reason I’ve come here – to celebrate Mass every day. However, that is not the only reason. Firstly, it occurred to me just how important the Eucharist is for Catholics in a town where they are the overwhelming minority.

This is something I take for granted coming from Ireland. In a place like this it becomes apparent just how distinctive the Eucharist makes Catholics, what we believe, how we worship, what we are called to become. After talking to a couple of non-Catholics who attended Mass here over the last few weeks, it is evident that they are being attracted and formed by the devotion of the community during the celebration of the Eucharist.

Then there is the fact that during these weeks the Sunday Gospel readings are from John chapter 6, the Bread of Life discourse. Reflecting on these readings, I was reminded of an encounter I had during a chaplaincy course I did in St. Vincent’s Hospital, Dublin. While on my rounds going through the wards, I met a Protestant from Belfast. He told me his story of how his life fell apart through drug addiction, of how his family had rejected him and of how his health had failed.

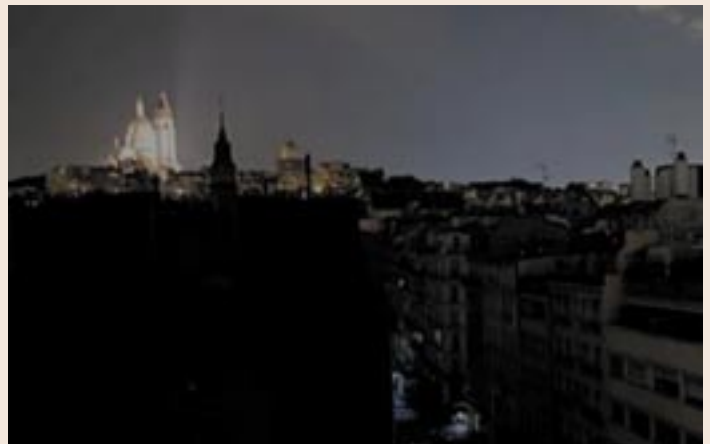
Then he told me that he goes to Mass at Clarendon Street church in Dublin and receives Holy Communion. While I was wondering should I tell him that he shouldn’t really receive Holy Communion he said, “I know I shouldn’t, but I look at this little white bag of drugs – it’s destroying me little by little. Then I look at this little white piece of bread, it brings me peace, it gives me life. I know it’s Jesus.” I have never, before or since, been given such an impactful teaching and witness to the truth and power of the Eucharist.

Here is the source and motive of all renewal and

Evangelisation in our parishes. There is no doubt at what Jesus can do when people are led into his presence – to convert, to heal to unite to Himself. Pope John Paul II, endeavouring to rekindle Eucharistic amazement, wrote in his encyclical on the Eucharist, “To contemplate the face of Christ, and to contemplate it with Mary, is the “programme” which I have set before the Church at the dawn of the third millennium, summoning her to put out into the deep on the sea of history with the enthusiasm of the new evangelization... *The Church draws her life from Christ in the Eucharist.* By Him she is fed and by Him she is enlightened.”

The final prompting of this Eucharist theme was on my first night in Hastings as I watched the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Paris, and the now infamous depiction of the Last Supper. Listening over the last few days to the outrage of Christians to this blatant mockery, I had great sympathy for the call for protest, boycott and reparation.

No doubt there is a place for all that, but I think our response should be one of utter confidence. When you sit before his Eucharistic presence, Jesus communicates his peace and calm and assurance that He has all in hand. Here is One who understands the broken hearts of the mocked and the mockers, and who is determined to win a victory in all our lives.



There was a great sign of this after the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony when Paris had a blackout. Divine intervention? Maybe, but what was remarkable was that the only light that could be seen on the horizon was from a church. And not just any church. It was a Catholic church. And not just any Catholic church. It was the Sacré-Cœur Basilica which has maintained perpetual adoration of the Holy Eucharist since 1885. Another reason for Eucharistic amazement!

A sign that though surrounded by darkness, by those who do not believe, by those who mock, and by our own darkness and addiction, the Eucharist is our light, it brings us life. It is really Jesus.



A Call to Serve

Fr Faustin Mrumbe SCA



We thank God that he is constantly calling young people to join the Pallottine way of life and service. St Vincent Pallotti, the founder of the Pallottines (1795-1850), offered his whole life to service in the church following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ who said, 'Just as the son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and gave his life for ransom for many (Mt. 20:28).

We, the Pallottines in East Africa, are still receiving a considerable number of young people requesting to be admitted to experience our life and eventually to join as members to work in the vineyard of the Lord.



Fr. Mrumbe and postulants in Gallapo, Tanzania

We follow the program of our Society which consists of four phases: postulancy, noviciate, philosophical and theological studies. The whole program is geared towards

preparing our future Pallottines to give service to the church in which we serve and to the world in which we live, following the footsteps of our founder St Vincent Pallotti.

The most recent member to be ordained on the 27th July 2024 in the Diocesan Cathedral of Mbulu by Most Rev Bishop Antony Lagwen is Fr Ambrose Gurti.

My job as the director of vocations and master of the postulancy program is to initiate these young people who come to us in the spirit of service. Our model or point of focus is the life of our founder St Vincent Pallotti. Daily prayers, Mass and lessons on the life of the church and human formation are part and parcel of our program. Our candidates are also sent out to put into practise what they have learned by giving classes on Catechism in primary and secondary schools in the area.

In order to carry out a good formation program for these young men we need finance. Our Region is still at an infancy stage and it will take time to be financially secure.

As one of the members of the formation team, I wish to express our sincere thanks to the Mother of Divine Love Province for the support we receive. Among the obvious fruits of our work is the recent ordination to the priesthood of Fr Amborse Gurti. He is currently ministering in our parish of Dagoreti Corner in Nairobi.

Among the Pallottines who worked tirelessly to spread the faith and are well remembered are Frs George Damball and Noel O'Connor who are now enjoying their eternal reward with the Lord in heaven.

We are aware that things are getting tighter, and fund raising is going to be very difficult in the future for various reasons. We keep you in our prayers and we promise to keep alive the seed of faith planted among us by men and women from Ireland.

Please Help the Pallottines.

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Please remember the Pallottines in your will. Thank you.

Dear Fr. Martin,

I enclose an offering of € to help the Pallottines' mission to assist, educate and empower the people they minister to.

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Registered Charity Number: 20011826

Fr Ambrose Gurti SCA



Fr Ambrose was ordained to the priesthood on the 27th of July 2024 in the Diocesan cathedral of Mbulu, Tanzania, by the Most Rev Bishop Antony Lagwen.