



Eighth Sunday Ordinary Time – 02 March 2025

## BISHOP WILLIE WALSH — A TRUE RADICAL



The late Bishop Emeritus of Killaloe Dr Willie Walsh was a radical and effective crusader who was not afraid of “challenging the system”, his funeral Mass heard. At a packed Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Ennis on Monday, the current Bishop of Killaloe Fintan Monahan told mourners that “Willie was a radical in the true sense of the word”. He said: “He challenged unquestioned beliefs, the accepted mores of society

and in doing so stripped them back to their origin, measuring them up against what he believed was the core of the Gospel, Cineáltas Chríost, the gentleness of Christ. “Being frequently outspoken, he stirred things up. This sometimes ruffled feathers, was occasionally misunderstood, upset a few and others saw it as an effort to overturn hard earned orthodoxy.” Bishop Monahan said he “was a profound and effective crusader” in an understated, yet very effective way and won people over “to genuine Christian values through kindness, understanding, listening, generosity, care for the poor, the marginalised, people struggling and suffering in life”. He said that “Bishop Willie did this through his unstinting work with the Travelling community, his pastoral outreach to survivors of abuse, the sick, the vulnerable, so many who availed of his spiritual outreach as a true pastor of Jesus Christ”. Recognised by survivors’ campaign group One in Four as having taken a lead in addressing clerical sex abuse scandals, Dr Walsh was at odds with the church leadership on several issues. He publicly disagreed with its ban on artificial means of contraception, felt the celibacy rule for priests should not be mandatory, favoured women priests, and was always publicly supportive of gay people despite traditional church teaching. Dr Walsh died suddenly at his Ennis home last Wednesday evening just weeks after celebrating his 90th birthday. He served as Bishop of Killaloe from 1994 to 2010. Dr Walsh was the last surviving member of his immediate family and was predeceased by his parents Ellen and William, brothers Joe, Eddie and John and his sisters Maura and Catherine. At the end of the Mass, his niece Miriam Burke expressed thanks to those who had mourned his loss with the family. “Whilst we loved Uncle Willie as a member of our family, we were always aware that we shared him with another family - the family of Killaloe diocese and the extended family nationwide”. She said: “It is very clear to us that your sense of loss mirrors our own. Willie would not have wanted us to dwell on our loss but rather to celebrate his life and a life that was lived with purpose, joy, generosity and above all humility. We have much to celebrate and much to learn from the example of his life.” Members of the public turned out in large numbers on Monday and Sunday afternoon at the cathedral to pay their respects to the Roscrea native who first came to Ennis in 1947 where he entered St Flannan’s College as a boarding student. Dr Walsh - who celebrated being a priest 66 years this month - was to remain in Ennis for the rest of his life apart from periods spent in Maynooth, Rome and Galway on his studies. Burial took place on the grounds of St Peter and Paul Cathedral close to the plot of the late Bishop of Killaloe, Dr Michael Harty whom Dr Walsh succeeded as Bishop in 1994.

*Courtesy Gordon Deegan Irish Times*

## Fr. Padraig Daly launching his new book — “This Glowing Place”

On Thursday 6th March at 7.30pm in the Teachers Club on Parnell Square. All are welcome.

Pádraig J. Daly was born in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. He is an Augustinian friar, working in the Dublin Liberties. He has published thirteen collections of poetry and several volumes of translations from Irish and Italian. Translations of his poetry have been made into most European languages and collections have appeared in Italian and Romanian. His translation of a Poem by Eduardo Sanguinetti features on the dustcover of “The FSG (Farrar Straus Giroux) Book of Twentieth Century Italian Poetry”.



## Remembered this Weekend

Fr. John O’Connell (3rd A)  
Simon Meyler (10th A)  
Michael Nolan (13th A)  
Myles Howe (Month’s Mind)  
Roman Laussermayer (6th A)  
Recently Deceased:  
Dessie Clarke  
Funeral Tuesday 04 March  
At 10am here in St. Nicholas of Myra



## New Statue of St. James

On Sunday 16 March, when the new statue of St James is installed in the Camino Chapel **mass will be at 12noon** and not 10am for this Sunday **ONLY**.



## Procedures for Allegations

The updated Procedure for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Children or Vulnerable Adults against Clerics of the Archdiocese of Dublin 2025 is available [here](#).



## Day of Prayer

This year, the Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse will fall on Friday week, March 7, the first Friday of Lent.



## Dublin City Parks Services

are moving ahead with a refurbishment of parkland between Christ Church Cathedral and the Civic Offices - a medieval lane called St John’s Lane. The area will be remodelled and landscaped with work set to start shortly and be completed later this year.



## Aware

If you wish to connect with people in relation to your mental wellbeing, consider using Aware’s phone-in and Zoom support and self-care groups, support line or support mail. For more information, visit [www.aware.ie](http://www.aware.ie).

## 8TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

### Penitential Rite

As we begin our celebration, rejoicing in the Lord, let us remember God's immense goodness to us.

In your mercy you call us to hope. Lord have mercy

From your goodness, you heal us and make us whole. Christ have mercy

By your love you defeat death and destruction, bringing us new life. Lord have mercy

May our great and gracious Lord, who has conquered death and destruction, have mercy on us, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

### Sirach 27:5-8

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a person appear in their talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a person is in their conversation. The orchard where a tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a person's words betray what they feel. Do not praise a person before they have spoken, since this is the test of humankind.

### 1 Corinthians 15: 54-58

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Never give in then, my dear brothers and sisters, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia  
You will shine in the world like bright stars  
because you are offering it the word of life.  
Alleluia

### Luke 6: 39-45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples: 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is

in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. 'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store.

### Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, your concern for us is everywhere; in the beauty of creation, in those who inspire us, give us hope and grant compassion. For such care, we thank you. Lord, hear us

For the people of Ukraine, that they may have peace and freedom. Lord, hear us.

Let the sounds of war and destruction be silenced forever. Let shattered lives be rebuilt and know true joy.  
Lord, hear us.

May your Kingdom come, bringing peace and justice and life in all its fullness. Lord hear us.

We remember all who have died recently and all whose anniversaries occur at this time; may we be united again in the Kingdom of God. Lord, hear us.

In silence we call to mind those who need our prayer and support..... Lord, hear us



### Reflection

Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have, and all that we are, toward creating a world that supports everyone. But it is also securing the space for others to contribute the best that they have and all that they are. Take your light and take your love into the world as the only weapons that we need to make this world truly glorious, truly beautiful, and astonish all of life. "We must make this world the most beautiful, glorious planet that any human being can imagine and, really, beyond anything any human being can imagine." Guard your light and protect it. Move it forward into the world and be fully confident that if we connect light to light to light, and join the lights together of the millions of young people in our world today, we will be enough to set our whole planet aglow."

*Hafsat Abiola*