

# St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-4530387 ---- 01-5611390



05 November 2017

## POPE FRANCIS AND CELIBACY



Pope Francis has requested a debate over allowing married men in the Amazon region of Brazil to become priests, in a controversial move that is likely to outrage conservatives in the Church, Vatican sources say. The pontiff took the decision to put a partial lifting of priestly celibacy up for discussion and a

possible vote by Brazilian bishops following a request made by Cardinal Claudio Hummes, the president of the Episcopal Commission for the Amazon, *Il Messaggero* newspaper quoted the sources saying. Cardinal Hummes reportedly asked Francis to consider ordaining so-called *viri probati*, married men of great faith, capable of ministering spiritually to the many remote communities in the Amazon where there is a shortage of priests, and evangelical Christians and pagan sects are displacing Catholicism. Monsignor Krausler quoted the Pope as telling him "speak to the bishops and tell them to make valid proposals," about such ordinations, the Austrian news agency KNA said. Francis said earlier this year that the Church should consider allowing married men to become priests in specific circumstances, effectively reversing the centuries-old practice that Roman Catholic priests must be celibate. In an interview with Germany's *Die Zeit* newspaper, the pontiff said "We must consider if *viri probati* is a possibility. Then we must determine what tasks they can perform, for example, in remote communities," he said. In the Amazon region, for instance, there is just one priest for every 10,000 Catholics. There are already a limited number of married priests within the Catholic Church, including married Anglican ministers who defected to Rome, some Coptic Catholics and members of some Eastern rite Catholic churches. The Pope has said that while he remains in favour of celibacy for priests, the principle is part of the discipline of the Church, rather than dogma, meaning that it can be discussed. Monsignor Giacomo Canobbio, a leading Italian theologian, added that "the fact of having a wife or children does not limit at all working in a parish." Such married priests would not have to take a vow of chastity, he added. "There is no ban. They would have a normal married life. " "I believe that Francis could review this, though he would not decide alone but would start a collegial process. The question is urgent." Nevertheless such a breakthrough is likely to nourish criticism by conservatives who are up in arms over Francis' decision to allow divorced people who re-marry to receive communion if their priests or local bishop approve. A Brazilian pilot project could be extended to regularize the position in Africa, where many Catholic priests already have mistresses and children, Monsignor Canobbio told *Il Messaggero*. "In Africa a good percentage of priests de facto have a family."

*Courtesy John Phillips, The Telegraph*

## JONATHAN SWIFT FESTIVAL 23RD - 26TH NOVEMBER



A fabulous weekend of cultural events beckons this November to celebrate the life and work of Ireland's most popular author. Listen to ballads from 300 years ago, take walking tours around Swift's Dublin, watch a theatrical performance or sit down to eat a dinner in the beautiful surrounds of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. Immerse yourself in Swift's life and work, and hear from contemporary writers, musicians, & historians. The famous author and Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral was born 350 years ago this year. Best known for his satirical works, including *Gulliver's*

*Travels*, Swift was also a noted champion of liberty and freedom of thought and advanced a number of social causes. Check out details of Festival at [www.jonathanswiftfestival.ie](http://www.jonathanswiftfestival.ie).

## NOTICES

### Money Matters

Sunday 29 October 2017

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p195  
2nd Collection: p220  
Mission Sunday: p55  
Family Offering: p282



### Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Mary Johnston 3rd Anniv,  
Richard & Rita Tester

Sun 11.30am: Kathleen Dolan,  
Gerard Martin



### Ordinations

On the Tuesday 14th November, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin will ordain Deacons James Daly & Bill O' Shaughnessy as Priests for the Archdiocese of Dublin. Their Ordinations will take place on the Feast Day of Saint Laurence O' Toole in St. Marys Pro Cathedral at 11.00am. To celebrate the gift of their vocations in building up our Church, parishes and schools throughout the Archdiocese are invited to send representatives, particularly any young members of the community who might like to attend the Ordinations at 11.00am on Tuesday 14th November. The community of faith in Dublin has nurtured and sustained Bill and James in their journey. As they prepare for ordination, to a ministry of witness to Jesus Christ, Archbishop Martin has asked the Priests and people of the Diocese remember James and Bill in prayer at Masses over the coming weeks.



### Technology and the over 55's

15 November 12.30 - 3.30pm in the Ilac Library, Ilac Centre. Everything you ever wanted know about technology but were afraid to ask, and a few others things thrown in as well. Don't miss it!

## New Look for Thomas Street

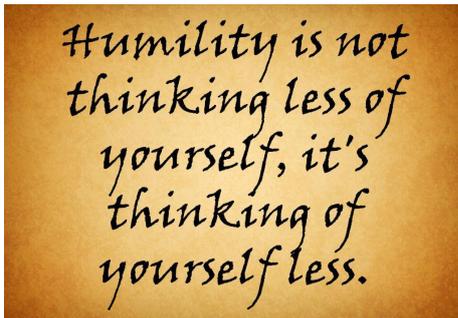


Here's a first look at the proposed new building for 61-62 Thomas Street, just close to Vicar Street. The building is designed by Lawrence & Long Architects and is being developed by Oakmount. The new building is an office space with a ground floor bar & restaurant. While the existing buildings have been largely derelict for many years, they do mask fabric from late 17th century buildings - thought originally to have been inns. The new building will retain and incorporate some of the historic fabric in situ, while being modern and contemporary of itself. Work on the site is expected to start this month.



### Monday 06 November

On Monday 06 November, the Funeral of Frank Martin will take place at 10am here in St. Nicholas of Myra. Sadly, Frank has no living relatives. Very often when we have a funeral some who attend the 10am mass opt to go elsewhere. Understandably, people cannot always wait for a funeral. However, on this occasion I would ask those who normally attend the 10am to make an effort to be present. As a Christian Community there are times when we really should 'put ourselves out' for others. This is one such occasion.



### 31st SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

#### A reading from the Prophet Malachi 1:14-2:2. 8-10

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. Indeed I have already cursed it, since there is not a single one of you who takes this to heart. But you, you have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration. Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

## Psalm 130 Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

O Lord, my heart is not proud  
nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too great  
nor marvels beyond me. R/

Truly I have set my soul  
in silence and peace.  
A weaned child on its mother's breast,  
even so is my soul. R/

O Israel, hope in the Lord  
both now and for ever. R/

### Gospel Acclamation: Mt 23:9-10

Alleluia, alleluia!  
you have only one Father, and he is in heaven.  
for you have only one Teacher, the Christ.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

#### A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 23:1-12

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Sometimes there would be a rush of noisy visitors and the Silence of the monastery would be shattered. This would upset the disciples; not the Master, who seemed just as content with the noise as with the Silence. To his protesting disciples he said one day, "Silence is not the absence of sound, but the absence of "self".

