

St. Nicholas News

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



Second Sunday of Lent 08 March 2020

McALEESE THREATENS TO LEAVE CATHOLIC CHURCH



Former president Mary McAleese has written to Pope Francis saying she will leave the Catholic Church “if it transpires that the Holy See failed to act to protect members of the L’Arche Community”. She said people should have been alerted to “the known predatory activities” of the community’s founder Jean Vanier and his mentor, Dominican priest Fr Thomas Philippe. “I have to say that this will be my final line of least resistance. I could not in conscience continue to support an institution capable of such gross negligence,” Mrs McAleese said in the letter.

Vanier founded L’Arche International in 1964 to assist people with intellectual disabilities. It caters for 10,000 people in 39 countries and has four communities in Ireland at Dublin, Belfast, Cork and Kilkenny, where up to 60 people are cared for and around 100 others are provided day services. L’Arche International announced on February 22nd that an inquiry it commissioned last June into allegations of sex abuse by Vanier had “received credible and consistent testimonies from six . . . women without disabilities, covering the period from 1970 to 2005”. Vanier died last May. Fr Philippe, who died in 1993, was found by a Catholic Church investigation in 2015 to have sexually abused 14 women, many of them associated with the L’Arche Community, in incidents dating back to the 1970s. It is understood that no people with disabilities were abused by him. In 1956, Fr Philippe’s was removed from ministry by the Vatican because of his abuse of women. Last month’s L’Arche also report found that by 1956 “there was no longer any doubt that Jean Vanier was informed of the reasons for the condemnation” of Fr Philippe. It found too that, against the advice of the church, between 1952 and 1964 Fr Philippe and Vanier maintained a deep bond and that Vanier “shared sexual practices similar to those of Father Thomas Philippe with several women, none of whom seem to have declared themselves as victims”. In her letter to Pope Francis, Mrs McAleese said “it is essential that the Holy See now explains how it came to so publicly commend a man whose predatory proclivities it was aware of”. She said “Vanier was consistently lauded by the Church at the highest level without the remotest suggestion that there was anything worrying in his character”. She asked “what steps if any did the Holy See take to interrupt the growth of the powerful cult of Vanier by warning the many good men and women who trusted him in good faith that he had an alarming past?” “I am one of those who regarded Vanier as inspirational for decades,” she said. “Hearing last week the awful story of his sexually and spiritually abusive conduct was devastating. Even worse was learning that the Holy See had been aware since the 1950s of his malevolent proclivities and those of his colleague Pere Thomas Phillippe. ” Mrs McAleese said she was confident that the great work done by L’Arche would allow it recover but that she was “not so sure about whether trust in the Holy See will recover so easily”. “Many times in recent years I have had reason to despair at the failures at papal, episcopal and Curial level regarding the protection of vulnerable children and the vindication of victims,” she said.

Courtesy Irish Times

IRELAND’S MUSLIM LEADERS PREPARE FOR FRIDAY PRAYERS AMID COVID 19



Stringent measures are being taken in Ireland’s mosques to protect worshippers attending Friday prayers. Dr Umar al Qadri, head Imam at the Islamic Centre of Ireland, said its mosque in Blanchardstown is attended on Fridays by over 400 people and the size of such a gathering had become a concern in the context of the coronavirus situation. This “very close interaction” of such a large number was “something of major concern in mosques”, he said. In Mecca it has meant “they have closed the whole mosque for the first time in 1,400 years”. “Nobody is allowed worship and they have disinfected the whole area,” he said. At the mosque in Blanchardstown “all towels have been removed” and when people wash before prayers “they dry themselves with disposable towels and use soap dispensers or hand sanitizers”. If necessary, and should the Government decide to ban large gatherings in the context, then the obligation to attend Friday prayers would be removed where Muslims were concerned, he said.

Courtesy Irish Times

NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 01 March 2020

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: €175
2nd Collection: €200
Share: €70
Family Offering: €280



Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Mary Deasy Months Mind, Dessie West Months Mind, Michael Carroll, Eileen Gayson, Simon & Josie Dunne, Pauline Marshall, Paddy & May Hoare, Henry Doherty (2nd A), Bernie Richardson (5th A), Bobby Richardson 9th Ann

Sun 11.30am: Kenneth Kirkwood, Mary Roche, John Gibson



Child Protection

If you need to contact the Child Protection Rep in the parish, please ring 01-4530387. You do not have to give your name. Simply give a contact phone number.



St. Vincent De Paul

This weekend we hold the monthly collection for the local conference of the St. Vincent de Paul. Please be as generous as you as all this money is spent locally and it really does make a very big difference to those whom the VdP visits.



COVID 19

Various gatherings are mentioned in the Newsletter. You need to decide if it is appropriate for you to attend. If you are older and have underlying medical issues, please take this into account.

Emmanuel 2020

The 14th Emmanuel Concert of Liturgical Music will take place in the MahonyHall, Helix Centre, Dublin next Monday 9, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March. Join over 2,500 students from 65 post-primary schools from throughout the Diocese as they come together to share and present four nights of magical Liturgical Music. Book your tickets at www.helix.ie For more info & list of schools participating each night contact Grainne Clinton by email: litsec@dublindioecese.ie or www.litmus.dublindioecese.ie



Faithfest 16

for teenagers will take place in Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3 on the 13th March from 6.00-9.30pm. It aims to build spaces where teenagers have an experience of a peer community, explore faith, and encounter an experience of welcoming, belonging, discipleship, worship and prayer in a creative and fun atmosphere. Download the consent form: www.evangelisation.ie



Behind the Veil: Deciphering the Sistine Chapel

Join renowned Art Historian Liz Lev on Monday 9 March at 7:30pm in Newman University Church, St. Stephen's Green. Liz Lev will peel away the patina of confusion about the Sistine chapel to reveal the amazing story of how it came about. Liz Lev is an American art historian and lecturer who lives in Rome, Italy.



Gentle Reminder

For the foreseeable future we are **not** shaking hands at the Sign of Peace. We ask everyone to receive Holy Communion **in the hand**. We are **not** using the Holy Water Font at the entrance to the church. This is to help prevent the spread of COVID 19.



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. 'I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.' So Abram went as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him.

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

Psalm 32

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. R/

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. R/

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield, May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. R/

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ ! From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'
Glory and praise to you, O Christ !

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. "Tell no one about this vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

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



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The Master became a legend in his lifetime. It was said that God once sought his advice: "I want to play a game of hide and seek with humankind. I've asked my Angels what the best place is to hide in. Some say the depth of the ocean. Others the top of the highest mountain. Others still the far side of the moon or a distant star. What do you suggest?" Said the Master, "Hide in the human heart. That's the last place they will think of."

From 'One Minute Wisdom' by Anthony de Mello