

# St. Nicholas News

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



10 February 2019

## POPE FRANCIS SAYS PRIESTS AND BISHOPS HAVE SEXUALLY ABUSED NUNS



Pope Francis has said the Roman Catholic Church has faced a persistent problem of sexual abuse of nuns by priests and even bishops. This is the first time he has publicly acknowledged the issue. Catholic nuns have accused clerics of sexual abuse in recent years in India, Africa, Latin America and in Italy, and a Vatican magazine last week mentioned nuns having abortions

or giving birth to the children of priests. But Francis has never raised the issue until he was asked to comment during a news conference aboard the papal plane returning to Rome from his trip to the United Arab Emirates. "It's true," Francis said on Tuesday. "There are priests and bishops who have done that." The pope's admission opens a new front in the long-running scandal of sexual abuse by priests, recognising nuns who have tried for years to call attention to their plight. With the #MeToo movement going strong, and Francis under pressure for neglecting the victims of child abuse, the nuns' pleas have gained traction. In November, the organisation representing the world's Catholic women's religious orders, the International Union of Superiors General, publicly denounced the "culture of silence and secrecy" that contributed to abuse, and urged nuns to report abuse to law enforcement. A top official in the Vatican office that handles sexual abuse allegations resigned last month after a former nun accused him of making sexual advances during confession. The official, the Rev. Hermann Geissler, chief of staff in the Vatican's doctrinal office, denied the allegation, the Vatican said. An article last week in *Women Church World*, the women's magazine of Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*, blamed the abuse on the outside power of priests. "The abuse of women results in procreation and so is at the origin of the scandal of imposed abortions and children not recognized by priests," wrote the article's author, Lucetta Scaraffia, a feminist intellectual and editor-in-chief of *Women Church World*.

Asked about these developments, Francis said that it was a continuing problem and that the Vatican was working on the issue. Some priests, he said, have been suspended. "Should more be done? Yes," Francis said. "Do we have the will? Yes. But it is a path that we have already begun." Francis recalled that his predecessor, Benedict XVI, had been "a strong man" who he said had sought to remove priests who committed sexual abuse and even "sexual slavery." Francis spoke about a case in which Benedict dissolved an order of nuns "because a certain slavery of women had crept in, slavery to the point of sexual slavery on the part of clergy or the founder." A Vatican spokesman, Alessandro Gisotti, said later that Francis was referring to the Contemplative Sisters of Saint-Jean, a small group in France that confronted a variety of problems. Even though the abuse of nuns gets less attention than the abuse of children and young men, it is not new.

*Courtesy The Irish Times*

## LAND REZONED FOR DEPOT AND 100 HOUSING UNITS

Dublin City Council (DCC) has voted to rezone land in the Liberties for a council depot and development of 100 housing units, despite opposition from several councillors in the area. The local authority plan to consolidate other depot space from several sites onto Marrowbone Lane in south inner-city Dublin, as well as providing social housing and two all-weather pitches on the land. Consolidating depot space on the site would free up other depot sites on council-owned land to deliver up to 300 social-housing units, council officials said. The motion to rezone the land was opposed by People Before Profit councillor Tina MacVeigh, who said the local community wanted the land to provide additional sporting facilities. Local sporting clubs had campaigned for a full-sized playing pitch in the area, and would not be served by two smaller training pitches, she said. Green Party Cllr Patrick Costello said he would oppose the motion as the land was a "perfect site for lots of housing, and public housing," and the council's proposal did not go far enough in that regard. Independent Cllr Mannix Flynn said if councillors rejected the plan and blocked the housing development, the local authority would be "ridiculed" by Minister for Housing Eoghan Murphy.

## NOTICES

### Money Matters

Sunday 03 February 2019

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p170

2nd Collection: p200

Share: p45

Family Offering: p315



### Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Tommy Butler, Marie & John Meier, Breda Nolan 7th (A), Patrick O'Reilly Jnr., Bridget Delany (5th ann)

Sun 11.30am: Jimmy Geoghegan, Lily Martin-Higginbotham,



### St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection for the local St. Vincent de Paul takes place this weekend. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you.



### World day of the Sick

will take place on 9 February 2019 in All Hallows, Drumcondra (9:30am to 1.00pm) on the topic Community struggle with addiction - A Pastoral response. Mass for World Day of the Sick will be held on 10 February 2019 in Corpus Christi 3.00pm.



### Emmanuel 2019 at the Helix

70 Second Level Schools from all over the Archdiocese will participate in the renowned Emmanuel concert series this year, where hundreds of teenagers take part in a live concert in the Helix over four nights. Monday 25/Tuesday 26/Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 of February at 7.30pm each evening. You're welcome to come along and enjoy the music. A list of participating schools is available at: [www.litmus@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:www.litmus@dublindiocese.ie)

## The Cabbage Patch

The historic Cabbage Patch off Kevin Street is set for a revamp. Dublin City Council & partners are looking for the ideas & input of local residents & businesses to help enhance this amenity. A Public Meeting and Workshop will take place on Tues 19th Feb 6:30pm in Francis Street CBS, John Dillon Street. All welcome and bring your thinking caps! If you would like more details on the project or the workshop then email [southeast@dublincity.ie](mailto:southeast@dublincity.ie)



## New Homes for the Weaver Square Allotment Holders

There was understandable concern from the 20-odd allotment holders at Weaver's Square when it was announced that the site was to be developed for housing. The allotment is one of the most successful in the area and had undoubtedly made a positive contribution to the area over the past 10 years. The allotment holders left the site to take up new homes at Back of the Pipes and off St James's Avenue, where two small allotments are being developed. There's work to be done but, as seen at St Thomas's Abbey site at South Earl Street, these small allotments can become really attractive spaces. The Weaver's Square site, together with an area alongside Weaver Park, is now being readied for the development of 55 new social housing units.



## FIFTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

### A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings. And they cried out one to another in this way, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. His glory fills the whole earth.' The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said: 'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.' Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said: 'See now, this has touched your lips, your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged. Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?' I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

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

### Psalm 137

**Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.**

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. R/

I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. R/

You stretch out your hand and save me, your hand will do all things for me. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hand. R/

## A reading from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

In the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it. but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia  
Follow me, says the Lord,  
and I will make you fishers of people.  
Alleluia

## A reading from the Gospel of Luke

Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats-it was Simon's-and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch'. 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets for a catch.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is people you will catch'. Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

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



### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy."

*Kahlil Gibran*