

# St. Nicholas News

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



Sixth Sunday of Easter 26 May 2019

## POLAND'S CATHOLIC CHURCH REELING OVER ABUSE DOCUMENTARY



Poland's powerful Catholic Church is in meltdown over a new documentary in which priests accused of abusing children are confronted by their victims. Polish bishops have been left shell shocked by the sheer weight of evidence of abusing priests and church cover-ups, after years denying their church faced any Irish-style problems. The documentary 'Don't Tell Anyone', available on YouTube with subtitles, is a disturbing insight into an institution that was a source of support and solidarity for millions of Poles, and enjoyed unparalleled power in the country's difficult history. Anna Misiewicz from Kielce, between Warsaw and Krakow, told of how her "promotion" - from eight-year-old presbytery cleaner to collection money counter - ended in sexual abuse. "He touched my breasts and .....and when he was finished he left the room and pretended as if nothing had been going on. He was certain I would tell no one." Even as an adult she still has nightmares and sleepless nights, so she confronted her abuser, who admitted everything as a hidden camera recorded his confession. "In my examination of conscience I often think I should never have done it, I should not have touched or kissed you, I know I shouldn't have . . . some stupid passion," he said, adding that he often said Mass for those he had hurt. "I regret it profoundly." Asked by Ms Misiewicz why he had chosen her for abuse, he said that "male issues finally came up when I was of a certain age, the fatherly love manifested itself a little and then it turned into this physical attraction". He admitted preying on others - always girls. The film continues with tales familiar to Irish ears: problematic priests moved from one parish to the next and traumatised victims and their families blocked by bishops who shifted, rather than solved, problems. In one case, a priest convicted for abusing girls and banned forever from contact with minors was allowed work in a retreat programme with children. In another case, a defrocked priest continued to say Mass even after the suicide of a former altar boy. In one village northwest of Warsaw, a local man whose nephew was abused by the priest told filmmakers: "He couldn't stop himself that man. But what to do? The bishop kept him." When the man decided to complain to the bishop, promises of support from his neighbours evaporated: "I was left alone, like an idiot." The film has been viewed more than 16 million times online and has sparked an emotional reaction in Poland, where 85 per cent of people identify as Catholic and a third attend weekly mass. At the weekend Gdansk archbishop Slawoj Leszek Glódz dismissed the film as "idiocies", but was forced to apologise on Wednesday. Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki, head of the Polish bishops' conference, has called an extraordinary meeting next Wednesday. Primate Wojciech Polak, the most senior clergyman in Poland, told Polish radio he saw no need for any bishops to resign but agreed more needed to be done to protect minors. "We ask God, the victims of abuse, their families and the Church community for forgiveness for all the harm done to children and young people and their relatives by clerics, consecrated persons and lay workers in the Church," the bishops said in a statement. At the same time, the church is fighting a lawsuit to annul a one million zloty (€232,620) compensation to a woman repeatedly raped as a teenager by her local priest. In March a study released by bishops showed nearly 400 Polish priests were accused of sexual abuse of minors from 1990 until 2018. The documentary has increased pressure on the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party, which for years has dismissed abuse allegations against the church as equivalent to attacks on Poland itself. The national conservative party launched a re-election campaign identifying homosexuals as a danger to Polish morality and children. Now the party has to decide whether to pivot against an important vote-bringer - many Catholic priests and bishops endorse PiS from the pulpit - or risk its hopes of winning a second term in office next September.

*Courtesy Derek Scally, The Irish Times  
Published 16 May 2019*

## NOTICES

### Money Matters

Sunday 19 May 2019

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: €225

2nd Collection: €295

Share: €40

Family Offering: €320

St. Vincent de Paul: €325



### Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Pauline Gray Birthday Remembrance, Teresa Leonard.

Sun 11.30am: Molly Murphy (First Ann), Baby Catherine O'Neill, Leo Farrell, Pat and Clare Cushen and Deceased Members, Nellie Graham

Mon 10am: James O'Leary



### Party in The Park

Sat 25th & Sun 26th, International Literary Festival in St. Patrick's Park (beside the Cathedral).



### Always be Ready

The Ecumenical Bible Week 2019 will take place from 10th - 16th June 2019 from 7.00am-8.15am. The theme for this year is "Always Be Ready - To give and answer... for the hope that you possess." 1 Peter 3:15. It will take place in nine different venues from city centre and in greater Dublin and Co. Wicklow. It will open with a Prayer Breakfast in St. Paul's Church Arran Quay (10 June). On Thursday 13 June Holy Cross College Clonliffe will host a Symposium on "How can we be Christian in Ireland today?" Chaired by Archbishop Michael Jackson. Thinking Allowed will take place in the evening reflecting on the theme "What does it mean to be a Christian in

Ireland today?" Among the panellists will be Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and leaders of other Christian faiths. All details on [www.bibleweek.ie](http://www.bibleweek.ie) and [www.facebook.com/bibleweek](http://www.facebook.com/bibleweek)



## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved'. This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders. Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them: 'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us; and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols; from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

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

### Psalm 66

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth. and all nations learn your saving help. R/

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. R/

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. R/

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

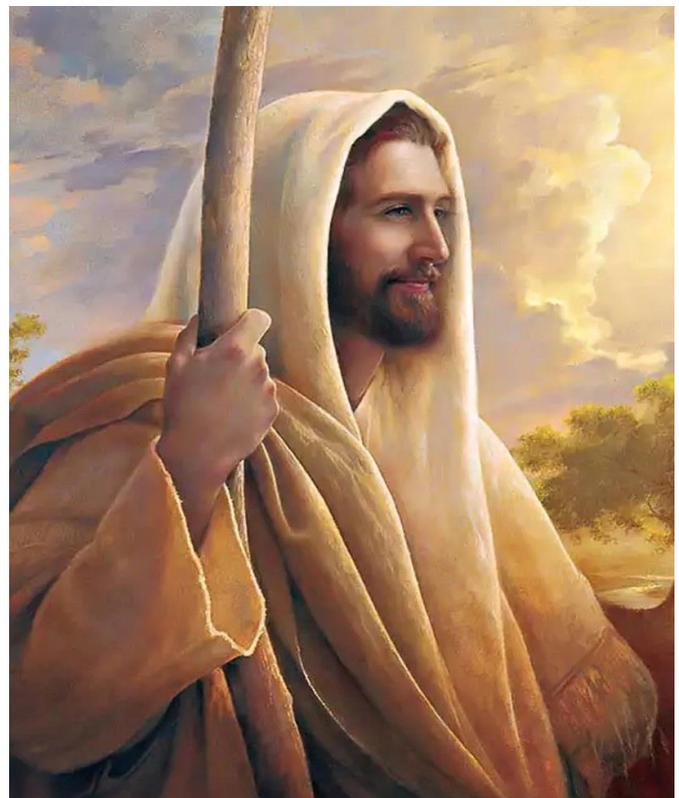
Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.

Alleluia!

### A reading from the Gospel of John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.

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



### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no "brief candle" for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

*George Bernard Shaw*

Church opens: 9.30am - 12noon, Mon, Tues, Weds, Friday, Sat(5pm-7pm), Thurs: 9.30am - 11am, Sun: 10am - 12.15pm