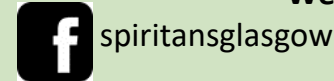


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15th Sunday of YEAR A, 12/07/20

First Reading—Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD. THANKS BE TO GOD

2ND Reading—Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

THE WORD OF THE LORD. THANKS BE TO GOD

GOSPEL—Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. THANKS BE TO GOD

NOTICE

1. PUBLIC MASSES AT ST COLUMBA'S BEGINS ON SUNDAY THE 19TH OF JULY. AS FOLLOWS:

SUNDAY S	11AM
MONDAYS—FRIDAYS	10AM
SATURDAY MORNINGS	10AM
SATURDAY EVENINGS	4:30PM

2. AS PER LEGISLATION, WE CAN TAKE NO MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE FOR MASSES AND NO MORE THAN 20 FOR FUNERALS.
3. WE ARE ADVISED TO RECORD ALL THE NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS OF ATTENDEES TO BE PASSED ON TO THE NHS IN THE EVENT OF AN OUTBREAK IN THE PARISH. AS PER DATA PROTECTION, IT IS GOING TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE ABOVE PURPOSE.
4. THE CHURCH OPERATES A ONE-WAY SYSTEM FOR NOW, WITH ARROWS, SIGNS AND CORDONED OFFPLACES ESPECIALLY SEATS. PLEASE FOLLOW SIGNS AND DIRECTIONS BY VOLUNTEERS.
5. MASKS ARE TO BE WORN THROUGHOUT YOUR VISIT. WE HAVE SANITISERS AT THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT TO BE USED BY EACH PERSON.
6. IF YOU NEED TO USED VOTIVE CANDLES, THERE IS A VOLUNTEER AT STANDBY READY TO LIGHT ON REQUEST.
7. FOR NOW, NO PRIVATE PRAYERS ALLOWED AFTER MASS SINCE CHURCH NEEDS TO BE SANITISED BY VOLUNTEERS.
8. 2 WEEKEND MASSES—4:30PM VIGIL AND 11AM SUNDAY MORNING. (EACH WITH A MAXIMUM OF 50 PERSONS EXPECTED). A VOLUNTEER WILL BE AT THE DOOR TO ADVISE ON THE NUMBER. WE NEED TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT BEFORE INTRODUCING OUR NORMAL 5PM SUNDAY MASS.
9. ADORATION CHAPEL OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS EVERYDAY 12 NOON—3PM, EXCEPT SUNDAYS. MAXIMUM ADMITTED—ONE PERSON EXCEPT FOR HOUSEHOLDS. YOU COULD ALSO RING FR AMBROSE AT 07549260379 TO MAKE ANOTHER ARRANGEMENT THAT SUITS YOU BETTER.
10. HOUSEHOLDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SIT TOGETHER DURING MASS OR PRAYER IN THE BIG CHURCH.