

Today is Fr. Martin's last Sunday with us in Raheny. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the last nine years of dedicated and loyal service to all of us here, in the Parish of Our Lady Mother of Divine Grace. We wish him well in his new parish and assure him of an on-going place in our thoughts and prayers.

### WALK to MASS for IRAQI CHRISTIANS

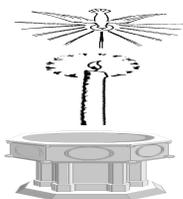
Catholics throughout Ireland have been asked to walk to Mass, this Sunday, in a symbolic gesture of solidarity with the Christian community in Iraq.

People might also like to consider supporting *Aid to the Church in Need*, a charity which works with persecuted Catholics around the world.

### Feastdays this week

Wed: St. Gregory the Great, pope & doctor of the Church  
Thurs: St. Mac Nissi, bishop

### NEXT BAPTISM PREPARATION MEETING



- in the church at 8pm, on Tuesday, 2nd Sept., for Baptism on Saturday, 6th Sept.



## CHURCH OF OUR LADY, MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE

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### THE DEEP END : An Open Book

*The Christian is a living epistle, known and read by all, an open letter, an advertisement for Christianity.*

William Barclay

What would an advertisement for Christianity look like? If you had to design one to sum up your faith, what would you include? On the one hand we are called to be joyful – to sing, shout, clap and rejoice! But faith is not always so straightforward. There are many obstacles and temptations. Sometimes we are afraid to stand up for what we believe in. Then there's today's Gospel, which speaks of suffering, and tells us that following Jesus involves taking up our cross. How do we make sense of this in the context of our faith journey?

The good news is we are not alone in our struggles. In today's First Reading, Jeremiah struggles with his faith in one of his many 'laments'. His faith has caused him to be a laughing stock. He feels conflicted; although his faith is inviting insult and derision, it is a fire burning in his heart. In spite of people's hostile reactions, he has been 'seduced' by God, and can't but speak out.

Is this how we feel about our faith? Is it like a fire burning within us, in our very bones, or are we lukewarm in our commitment? Following Jesus is a radical choice, now more than ever perhaps. Today's readings teach us to be less concerned with what people think, and more concerned with living according to Jesus' teachings.

Triona Doherty, Athlone

### READINGS - Next Sunday

Ez. 33: 7-9.  
Ps. 94:1-2, 6-9.  
Rm. 13:8-10.



Vigil	6.00 pm	Madge Boyne (1st Anniv.)
Sun.	8.30 am	Pro Populo
	10.00 am	Kitty Synnott (1st Anniv.)
	11.30 am	Pauline Fagan (Anniv.)
Mon.	10.00am	Bryan Gleeson (Rec. Dec'd.)
Tues.	10.00am	Vincent Walshe (Anniv.)
Wed.	10.00am	Dorothy & James Shields (Anniv.)
Thurs.	10.00am	Eleanor Ryan (Anniv.)
Fri.	10.00am	Altar List of the Dead
Sat.	10.00am	Niall Smyth (Anniv.)

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Thursday after the 10am Mass, until 12noon.**

Church gate collection next Sunday, 7th Sept. will be in aid of the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.

### GETTING MARRIED SOON?

**"Week-End Away" preparing for marriage. Get away from it all. Have a Pre-Marriage course with a difference, focussing on your relationship. Contact: Esker, Athenry, (091) 844549, OR [www.redemptoristesker.ie](http://www.redemptoristesker.ie) OR search for "Esker Couples" on Facebook.**

✠ Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Bill O'Keeffe, Springdale Road, who died recently. May he rest in the peace of Christ. ✠

