

## The ups and downs of the Christian journey

Michael Commane

In 'The Tablet' of 12 October there was a piece on the newly appointed Bishop of Trondheim in Norway.

The newly-appointed bishop, Erik Varden is a Cistercian and has been, up to his appointment, the abbot of Mount St Bernard Abbey in Leicestershire.

Bishop Varden was born into a Lutheran family in Norway in 1974. He converted to Catholicism in 1993, something that the newly-canonised John Henry Newman did on October 9, 1845.

Erik Varden joined the Cistercians in England in 2002 and was ordained a priest in 2011 by the Bishop of Liverpool, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon.

On a visit to Ireland some years ago Erik Varden recalls talking to an old monk on his deathbed. He was talking to him about changes in the monastery to which the old man said: "I am not worried about the monastery; what grieves me is that Christ is disappearing from Ireland."

Change is part of living.

English Dominican Timothy Radcliffe, talks of the church being as 'outmoded as a typewriter'.

The church no longer has the status it had and surely that's no harm. Was the church of fadó fadó not an authoritarian organisation that frightened people?

Every day when we see acts of kindness and goodness surely we are reminded of the goodness of God.

Everyone's faith is a journey, it's a personal experience lived in the now and lived too in the midst of other people.

People have been hurt, people have been alienated by an authoritarian church. It's our exciting job to live the Gospel in the here and now, always ready to listen to the pain and suffering of those who have been hurt. Also to say sorry.

Being Christian brings us on a journey with all the ups and downs that a loved-adventure involves.

### Prayer for the Extraordinary Missionary Month

Our Father:

Your only begotten Son Jesus Christ,

Risen from the dead,

Entrusted to His disciples, the mandate

*"Go and make disciples of all peoples"*

You remind us that, through our baptism

We are made partakers of the mission of the Church.

Help us to ensure that all peoples

Can find the salvific love and the mercy of

Jesus Christ,

Who is God and lives and reigns with you,

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

forever and ever.

Amen

## Collections 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Offertory Collection: € 1,366

Share Collection: €935

Thank you for your support for these collections, and for your contributions to the Parish Fund each month.

**World Mission Sunday 2019.** There will be a collection today to support the Church's official charity for overseas mission. This collection will replace the Share Collection.

**Christian Meditation** takes place every Thursday morning before 10.00am Mass in the Church. Meditation is the quiet prayer of faith, silence, stillness and simplicity handed on to us by the Benedictine Monk, John Main O.S.B. All are welcome.

**Sacristan for 6.15pm Mass** we urgently need a volunteer to prepare the Church and help at the Sunday evening 6.15pm Mass. Training will be given. If you can help, please contact the Parish Office at 01 4972215.

**Zion Parish Church** will host the Dublin Gospel Choir on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 8.00pm. All proceeds in aid of Merrick House, Terenure. Tickets €20.00 available from [merrickhouse.ie/concert](http://merrickhouse.ie/concert).

**Coral Brasília Choir** The Brazilian choir 'Coral Brasília' will perform in the Pro-Cathedral, Marlborough Street, on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 6.00pm. Coral Brasília is an acclaimed choir based in Brazil's capital city they are coming to Ireland to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Derry International Choir Festival. This is a free event <https://facebook.com/cbrasilia/>

**St Joseph's Young Priests' Society** monthly meeting will take place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am in the Sacristy. New members welcome.

**Living with Loss** An information evening for the public about bereavement with guest speaker, writer Emma Hayes, will take place in The Alex Hotel, Fenian St, off Merrion Square, on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 from 5.30pm – 8.00pm.

**Home from Home D6** (Community Sponsorship of Refugees) is holding a fundraising Coffee Morning today Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October from 10.30am to 1.00pm in St Joseph's Hall Terenure. Or if you would like to contribute, donations can be made at <https://www.ifundraise.ie/4724> home-from-home-d6.html

**Afternoon of Prayer** for members of St Joseph's Young Priests' Society will take place in Holy Cross College, Clonliffe today 20<sup>th</sup> October commencing with Holy Hour at 2.00pm. Enter by the 'Chancellery Door'.

### Dublin City Marathon Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019

The Marathon route through local roads may affect your journey to Three Patrons next Sunday. Please see [kbcdublinmarathon.ie](http://kbcdublinmarathon.ie) for course details.