## **August 25th, 2024 - Issue #230 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sad news. We learned that Father Derek Smyth, who was one of our priests here at Christ of the Desert has passed away. He was much loved here and made a positive influence to all who knew him. Those of us that remember him, will miss him.**

**”Rev. Dr. Derek Smyth of Foxrock, Dublin 18 and formerly of Clontarf, Dublin 3, passed away peacefully, on the 13th August 2024, at St. Vincent’s Private Hospital, Dublin, surrounded by his family and close friends. Predeceased by his parents Patrick and Catherine (Kitty) Smyth. Greatly missed by his sister Patricia, brothers Eamonn and Philip, sisters-in-law Mary and Sarah, niece Kate and her husband Barry, together with their children Zoe and Freddie, nephews Conor and Matthew, close friends, Archbishop Dermot Farrell and fellow priests.**

**Our lives will never be the same without him.**

## **While attempting to clean up my office the other day, I came across a Father Jack wooden token with Jack’s face on it. It was distributed at his funeral. I then remembered that last year about this time I published a message from Father Jack written just before he passed away. It evoked smiles and some tears thinking about this wonderful friend of ours who always brought positivity into our lives. Here goes – have some Kleenex handy. Jay**

*Hey Gang,*

*Finally!  It took a while, but I’ve finally gone home!  I hope I can let you know somehow what it’s like.  At any rate, thanks so much for our friendship.  You have been a treasure to me.  I will never forget you.*

*I wish to thank my family, my friends and especially my friends at Christ of the Desert and Xavier High School and my friends in Alcoholics Anonymous for the wonderful experiences we had on this journey.* ***When you come this way, I’ll be waiting for you.***

*May you be happy … may you be healthy … and may you be safe.*

*Fr. Jack*

**ORIGIN OF THE AGNES DEI:**

**Agnus Dei is the Latin name under which the "**[**Lamb of God**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lamb_of_God)**" is honored within**[**Christian liturgies**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_liturgy)**descending from the historic**[**Latin liturgical tradition**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_liturgical_rites)**, including those of**[**Roman Catholicism**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Church)**,**[**Lutheranism**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lutheranism)**and**[**Anglicanism**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglicanism)**. It is the name given to a specific prayer that occurs in these liturgies, and is the name given to the music pieces that accompany the text of this prayer.**

**The use of the title "Lamb of God" in liturgy is based on**[**John 1:29**](https://bible.oremus.org/?passage=John%201:29&version=nrsv)**, in which**[**St. John the Baptist**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_the_Baptist)**, upon seeing**[**Jesus**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus)**, proclaims "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"**

### **Latin Catholic:**

**The**[**Syrian**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syriac_Christianity)**custom of a chant addressed to the Lamb of God was introduced into the**[**Roman Rite**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Rite)[**Mass**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_%28liturgy%29)**by**[**Pope Sergius I**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Sergius_I)**(687–701) in the context of his rejection of the**[**Council of Trullo**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quinisext_Council)**of 692, whose canons had forbidden the iconographic depiction of Christ as a lamb instead of a man.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.*** | **Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.** |
| **—Latin** | **—English translation** |

**The verse used in the first and second invocations may be repeated as many times as necessary whilst the celebrant prepares the host and wine for communion.**

**In a**[**Tridentine**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tridentine_Mass)[**Requiem Mass**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Requiem_Mass)**, the words "*miserere nobis*" are replaced by "*dona eis requiem*" (grant them rest), while "*dona nobis pacem*" is replaced by "*dona eis requiem sempiternam*" (grant them eternal rest).**

**The priest uses the phrase "Lamb of God" again, later in the Mass. While displaying the Eucharistic species to the people before giving them**[**Holy Communion**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Communion)**, he says: "*Ecce Agnus Dei, ecce qui tollit peccata mundi. Beati qui ad cenam Agni vocati sunt.*" ("Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.")**

**ATTENTION: Ladies Guild Members**

**We will be having our Ladies Guild Luncheon on Wednesday, September 11th at 11:30 AM . Menus TBD.**

**Please email Cindy at** **chayward@sacredheartpalmdesert.com****or call 760-346-0089 to sign up or Cindy will be available after Mass (starting August 25th) to sign up and pay $5 per person. You may pay ahead at sign-up or pay at the door. We do plan ahead for the amount of food so please make sure to pay if you signed up, even if you don’t make it.**

**REMEMBRANCE WALK – PAVER ORDER INFORMATION FOR NEW PARISHIONERS:**

**The “REMEMBRANCE WALK” IS LOCATED IS LOCATED TO THE RIGHT OF THE MAIN ENTR**

**ANCE TO THE CHAPEL. (behind the planter)**

**Forms are available from the Parish Office or back of the church. Installation will be within 30 days of your order. If you are not sure what you want to say on the paver, let me assist you!!**

**ATTENTION: Ladies Guild Members**

**We will be having our Ladies Guild Luncheon on Wednesday, September 11th at 11:30 AM . Menus Trio of Salads.**

**Please email Cindy at** **chayward@sacredheartpalmdesert.com****or call 760-346-0089 to sign up or Cindy will be available after Mass (starting August 25th) to sign up and pay $5 per person. You may pay ahead at sign-up or pay at the door. We do plan ahead for the amount of food so please make sure to pay if you signed up, even if you don’t make it.**

**AUGUST UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:**

* **August 1ST is the monthly (Thursday) FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program at 9:30AM.**
* **August 10th is the next the K of C drive-through CRV recycle program. From 7:30AM to 11:30AM. Parking lot behind Salta Center.**
* **August 14TH is the next Bingo night at Sacred Heart 6 to 9 PM in the Salta Center.**
	+ **September 10th is Bingo night at Sacred Heart 6 to 9 PM in the Salta Center.**
* **August 15TH (Thursday) – Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
* **August: No Ladies Guild monthly luncheon.**
* **September 11th – Fall Ladies Guild luncheon.**

**SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES:**

* **September 5th -  Monthly (Thursday) FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program at 9:30AM.**
* **September 10th – Bingo at Sacred Heart. 6:00 – 9:00 PM in the Salta Center.**
* **September 11th - Ladies Guild Luncheon on Wednesday at 11:30 AM at the Catholic Charities.**
* **September 14th - K of C drive-through CRV recycle program. From 7:30AM to 11:30AM. Parking lot behind Salta Center.**
* **September 26th – Finance Council meeting.**

**In 2024 the following will be observed as Holy Days of Obligation:**

1. **Sunday, May 12, 2024 - Solemnity of the Ascension. The Solemnity replaces the Seventh Sunday of Easter.**
2. **Thursday, August 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
3. **Friday, November 1 – Solemnity of All Saints**
4. **Please Note: In 2024, December 8 occurs on a Sunday and will be observed in the Roman Calendar as the Second Sunday of Advent. The liturgical observance of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday, Dec. 9, 2024. However, the obligation to participate in Mass for the Immaculate Conception is not transferred.**
5. **Wednesday, December 25 – Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**
6. **Wednesday, January 1, 2025 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

**August 25th, 2024 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**The famous Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky said, “Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing.” In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus does something harsh and dreadful — he watches his own disciples abandon him. What could possibly be loving about that?**

 **Well, we notice the context is Jesus’ teaching about eating and drinking his body and blood. His followers hear this and say, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” (John 6:60). We shouldn’t imagine we’d do anything different, because not even the ones who stay, like Peter, seem to understand what Jesus is saying. Then we hear this devastating line, “Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him” (John 6:66). Besides the night of the Last Supper, only now do Jesus’ disciples abandon him. And, painfully, Jesus just lets them go.**

 **The best way to make sense out of this is love. Jesus is God’s love in action. He wants to become one with those whom He loves. He wants to love them as His own body. Yes, the oneness manifested in the Eucharist sounds harsh and dreadful because it is rooted in love which is willing to risk abandonment and separation to attain its goal: to be one body with the beloved. It is both terrifying and wonderful that Jesus will risk losing us in order to be one with us. Our response? Lord, we cannot grasp a love so great, but please help us never to abandon it, either.***— Father John Muir*

**August 25th – Themes for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time.**

The readings for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time remind us that discipleship is a choice.

In the first reading Joshua challenges the Israelites to decide if they will serve the Lord or pagan gods.

In the gospel, some of Jesus’ followers walk away because they cannot accept what he is saying.

**Mass Readings for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time.**

* **First Reading** – [Joshua 24:1-2A, 15-17, 18B](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/pledge-to-serve-the-lord/) : Joshua challenges Israel to choose their allegiance at Shechem; the people reaffirm their commitment to the LORD, recalling His deliverance and protection throughout their history.
* **Responsorial Psalm** – [Psalm 34](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/the-lords-protection/): I will always praise the Lord, who listens to the righteous and rescues them from trouble, delivering and protecting them in their adversity.
* **Second Reading** – [Ephesians 5:21-32 or 5:2A, 25-32](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/love-and-respect-in-marriage/): Christ’s love guides marital roles: wives respecting husbands as the church respects Christ, and husbands loving wives as Christ loves the church, symbolizing unity and sanctity.
* **Gospel**– [John 6:60-69](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/challenge-of-faith/): Jesus addresses the difficulty of his teachings and acknowledges disbelief among his followers. After many leave, Peter reaffirms their faith, recognizing Jesus as the Holy One of God.

**Themes are gleaned from**[**www.young-catholics.com**](http://www.young-catholics.com/)

**FINANCIAL SECTION:**

**AUGUST HAS 4 SUNDAYS FOR THOSE THAT GIVE MONTHLY.**

**Please make all checks payable to “Christ of the Desert” not Sacred Heart.**

**Total monies collected to date: $21,189 or 14.1% of annual budget. Last week’s collection was: $1351\*.**

**We also collected $222 on Thursday, August 15th for Assumption.**

**\*Monies collected each week reflect the Friday & Sunday Mass plus rental income from offices in the Courtyard, Weddings & Funerals.**

**This information is important for our community in order to understand where are financially throughout the year.**

**Our Monthly expenses are budgeted at $12,500 per month or $37,500 per quarter. $150,000 annually.**

**Thanks for your continued generosity.**

**See instructions at end of Bulletin for ways to continue giving via your bank on-line service, there is likely a “setting” that will say “Autopay” or some other “Bill Pay” service.**

**THE POPE’S INTENTION FOR AUGUST: For political leaders:**
**We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs**.

**THE POPE’S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER: For the cry of the Earth**
**We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.**

**The Christ of the Desert “Bulletin” now appears on**[**www.sacredheartpalmdesert.com**](http://www.sacredheartpalmdesert.com/)**website. Open up the site and click on “church”, look down on the bottom left for Christ of the Desert. Open up this site for the “bulletin” and other information about our community.**

 **CELEBRATION SECTION:**

**There will be an information providing sheet on the table near the Chapel exit/entrance area.**

**You can always email the information to me as well.**

**You can sign up for any month NOW. I will keep a record of your special month and enter it when that month arrives.**

**WHO HAS A DATE IN SEPTEMBER & YOU WANT ME TO ADD TO THE NOTICES BELOW????**

**DISCLAIMER: If information below is incorrect, please let me know and I will correct the error.**

**AUGUST: BIRTHDAY SECTION:**

**Jay Mueller has a birthday on August 8th.**

**Diane Silvas has a birthday on August 12th.**

**Sister Phyllis has a birthday on August 27th.**

**Charlie Ara has a birthday on August 27th.**

**Jean LaBaugh has a birthday on August 28th.**

**Sister Geneva has a birthday on August 29th.**

**SEPTEMBER: BIRTHDAY SECTION:**

**Enedina Sutton – September 1st**

**Rosanne Hopkins – September 1st**

**Carol Kephart – September 2nd**

**Lynne Lehane – September 3rd**

**Paul Oliaro – September 15th**

**Carla Washington – September 16th**

**Armin Callo – September 18th**

**Frank Rayo- September 25th**

**Chris Ray -September 27th**

**AUGUST: BIRTHDAYS IN HEAVEN:**

**John Clay – August 12th  Husband of Carrie Clay.**

**Jack Gurr – August 28th.**

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS IN HEAVEN:**

**Federico Arias – September 4th, brother of Enedina Sutton**

**Joe Maldonado – Father of John Maldonado  August 30th**

**AUGUST: HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY SECTION:**

**Dave & Connie Bannon – August 17th**

**Paul & Kathy Oliaro – August 23rd**

**SEPTEMBER HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY SECTION:**

**Jim & Jean LaBaugh – September 16th**

**Kevin & Jody Harris – September 23**

**AUGUST: REMEMBERING WEDDING ANNIVERSAY SECTION:**

**Robert & Enedina Sutton - August 6th.**

**Bob & Joanne Dellovo – August 20th**

**Dolores and Steve Kent – August 20th**

**SEPTEMBER: REMEMBERING WEDDING ANNIVERSAY SECTION:**

**Jim & Carmen Carlo – September 15th**

**Larry & Louella Bean - September 20th.**

**AUGUST REMEMBRANCE SECTION: “May their souls rest in peace”, Amen**

**Donald Zannotti, husband of Margaret (Peg) Zannotti died on August 31, 2014.**

**SEPTEMBER REMEMBRANCE SECTION: “May their souls rest in peace”, Amen**

**Joe Lehane, husband of Lynne, passed away on September 2nd**

**Judy Aragon passed away on September 3rd**

**Lindy Hodges, twin sister of Sandy Reid, passed away on September 5th**

**Joe Maldonado, Father of John Maldonado, passed away on September 9th**

**Bob DeWeese, Father of Paulette Quaid, passed away on September 12th, 2001.**

**Please provide Month, Date & Year & Relationship to family member being remembered.**

**“Who would you like to pray” for section:**

**Please send me your new updated petitions which will appear in green.**

**Many of you pray for special intentions at Sunday Mass. Please send me those intentions so the entire Parish can pray to the LORD with you.**

**Please pray for my daughter, Lisa Gruebel, who has been recently diagnosed with lung cancer, Suzanne Cummings.**

**Please pray for Bob, Lee, Karen and Mira   Roxanne Reed**

**THIS WE PRAY TO THE LORD!!!**

**Christ of the Desert office hours: 760-346-0089**

**Office hours are from 9:30 to 1:30 Monday- Friday. Please call first to be sure Cindy is available. When Cindy is in the office, the office door is locked. Please ring the doorbell “to get her attention”.**

 **SUPPORT OUR PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE SMALL BUSINESSES SECTION:**

 **If anyone else wants to advertise their business in the Bulletin, send me your information.**

**Thinking about selling your house or condo? Call Crys Mueller at 760 989 8732. I have been with BD Homes for the past 15 years.**

**John Maldonado is a Mortgage Loan Originator with First West Financial, Corp & a member of Christ of the Desert congregation.**

**"Your Home Loan Made Simple" We help you buy your dream home by simplifying the mortgage financing process with personalized loan options that save you time and money. If you need assistance with any type of loan, I am here to help.**

**For every loan that closes, I will make a donation to Christ of the Desert.**

**Contact: John A. Maldonado at** **jam@firstwestfinancial.com** **or call 760 636-8266. Mortgage Loan Originator,**

**NMLS #1995783,**[**WWW.firstwestfinancial.com**](http://www.firstwestfinancial.com/)

**Enedina Sutton, a Distributor of Nature Sunshine Products and a long time parishioner. Has Herbal Supplements, all kinds of Vitamins, ointments, essential Oils, disinfectant products and much more. I do the business from home. I can be reached at****760-345-3754****. I live in Sun City Palm Desert community.**

**Invented by NASA engineers, used on astronauts returning from space to rebuild muscle, bone and heal wounds “red light therapy” is now available. I am a new parishioner. Please call or email me: Rom Partyka 805-673-9235 or email at****rom1942@msn.com****for more information or to set up an appointment.**

**Need a good Catholic housekeeper? Call Elvia Pantoja at 760 698 6050. 20 years’ experience in the Indian Wells & Palm Desert area. References provided upon request.**

**ON GOING MESSAGE SECTION:**

**Please continue to consider supporting our community with the following options:**

**Mail your weekly or monthly offering to Christ of the Desert. All our regular mail goes to Sacred Heart so you would need to use that address. Make checks payable to Christ of the Desert.**

**CHRIST OF THE DESERT c/o.**

**SACRED HEART CHURCH 43-775 DEEP CANYON ROAD, PALM DESERT, CA 92260.**

**OR**

**Go to your bank on-line service, there is likely a “setting” that will say “Autopay” or some other “Bill Pay” service. You can set up an automatic payment directly from there. If you have any trouble doing this or don’t have a computer, just call your bank and they can help you.**

**Please make sure that you tell the bank to make the check payable to Christ of the Desert but send the check to Sacred Heart’s address:**

**43775 Deep Canyon Rd.  Palm Desert, CA  92260**

**Jay Mueller**

**Stay Healthy! Do good work! Keep in touch!!!**

SHC & COD Finance Council Member

SHC & COD Parish Council Member

COD Remembrance Walk Coordinator

SHC Remembrance Square Coordinator

SHC East Valley Outreach Program Coordinator

CELL NUMBER 760-777-3745