

# Parish of Blaris

**Sunday 10th August 2025**  
The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*'... and you are sure of the goal of your faith,  
that is, the salvation of your souls.'*

*1 Peter 1:9*

## **ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH**

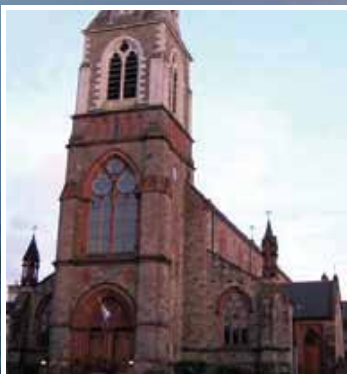
**Masses Monday – Friday 10.00am**

**Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm**

**Sunday: 10.00am & 12 noon**

## **LIVE WEBSTREAMING OF ALL MASSES**

Please note many parishes in the Diocese have webcams installed which provide live coverage of various Masses taking place daily throughout the Diocese. These can be accessed by visiting [www.downandconnor.org](http://www.downandconnor.org) Links to Parish Webcams. Live Church webcam links: CHURCH SERVICES. TV & MCN MEDIA CHURCH WEBCAMS



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Monday-Friday 10.30am-4.00pm.  
Closed 1.00pm-2.00pm.

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## INTRODUCTORY RITES

*Congregation stands*

**Entrance Hymn or  
Entrance Antiphon**

**Cf. Ps 73:20. 19. 22,23**

**All:** Look to your covenant, O Lord,  
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.  
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,  
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

## GREETING

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and  
of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Priest:** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and  
the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:** And with your spirit.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

**Priest:** Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred  
mysteries.

**Priest:** Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another  
and to the Father:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest:** Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

**Priest:** Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest:** May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen

## GLORIA

**All:** Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the  
Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the  
Father. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

**Priest:** Let us pray.

*Pause for silent prayer*

**Priest:** Almighty ever-living God,  
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,  
we dare to call our Father,  
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts

the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,  
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance  
which you have promised.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Congregation Sits*

### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom

**8:6-9**

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that,  
once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their  
trust in they would joyfully take courage.  
This was the expectation of your people,  
the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies;  
for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our  
foes you made us glorious by calling us to you.  
The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret  
and this divine pact they struck with one accord:  
that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers  
alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the  
fathers.

**All:** The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 32:1. 12. 18-20. 22. R v.12

**(R) Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as  
his own.**

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.  
They are happy, whose God is the Lord,  
the people he has chosen as his own. **(R)**
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. **(R)**
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. **(R)**

### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

**11:1-2. 8-19**

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or  
prove the existence of the realities that at present remain  
unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for  
a country that was the inheritance given to him and his  
descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he  
was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised  
Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and  
Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They  
lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded,  
designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past  
the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed she  
believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful  
to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who  
was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than  
could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains  
of sand on the seashore.  
All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that  
had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and  
welcomed them, recognising that they were



only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

**All:** The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Congregation stands*

### ACCLAMATION

**Cf. Mt 11:25**

**All:** Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.  
Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**12:32-48**

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming", and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

'The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

*Congregation sits*

### HOMILY

*Congregation stands*

### THE CREED

**All:** I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the  
Father; through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(bow your head up to the words 'and became man')*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Congregation sits*

### THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Procession

*The gifts of bread and wine which will become the Lord's body and blood are brought to the altar.*

*The celebrant raises the host on the paten saying:*

**Priest:** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

**All:** Blessed be God for ever.

*The celebrant pours wine and a little water into the chalice, saying quietly:*

**Priest:** By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

*The celebrant then raises the chalice above the altar and says:*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the wine we offer you:  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
it will become our spiritual drink.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

*Bowing, the celebrant says quietly:*

**Priest:** With humble spirit and contrite heart  
may we be accepted by you, O Lord,  
and may our sacrifice in your sight this day  
be pleasing to you, Lord God.

*Then the celebrant washes his hands, saying quietly:*

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and  
yours may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name, for our  
good and the good of all his holy Church.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**Priest:** Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of your  
Church, for in your mercy you have given them to  
be offered and by your power you transform them  
into the mystery of our salvation.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

*Congregation stands*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right and just.**

### PREFACE (I in Ordinary Time)

**Priest:** It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.

For through his Paschal Mystery,  
he accomplished the marvellous deed,  
by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and  
death, summoning us to the glory of being now  
called a chosen race, a royal priesthood,  
a holy nation, a people for your own possession,  
to proclaim everywhere your mighty works,  
for you have called us out of darkness  
into your own wonderful light.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory,  
as without end we acclaim:

### ACCLAMATION

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Congregation kneels*

**Priest:** You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
and all you have created rightly gives you praise,  
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,  
you give life to all things and make them holy,  
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,  
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting  
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:  
by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts  
we have brought to you for consecration,  
that they may become the Body and + Blood  
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed  
he himself took bread,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE  
BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR  
MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

**Priest:** The mystery of faith.

**All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

**Priest:** Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate  
the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son,  
his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into  
heaven, and as we look forward to his second  
coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and  
living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and,  
recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death you  
willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we,  
who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your  
Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one  
body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us an eternal offering to you,  
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,  
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother  
of God, with blessed Joseph, her spouse,  
with your blessed Apostles and glorious  
Martyrs with Saint Patrick and with all the Saints,  
on whose constant intercession in your presence we  
rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray,  
O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the  
world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity  
your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant  
Leo our Pope and **N** our Bishop, the Order of  
Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have  
gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,  
whom you have summoned before you:  
in your compassion, O merciful Father,  
gather to yourself all your children  
scattered throughout the world.  
To our departed brothers and sisters  
and to all who were pleasing to you  
at their passing from this life,  
give kind admittance to your kingdom.  
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of  
your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom  
you bestow on the world all that is good.

**Priest:** Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

**All:** **Amen.**

*Congregation stands*

## THE COMMUNION RITE

**Priest:** At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All:** **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**Priest:** Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**All:** **For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours now and for ever.**

**Priest:** Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** **Amen.**

**Priest:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**All:** **And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord  
Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

**All:** **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the  
world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the  
world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the  
world, grant us peace.**

*Congregation kneels*

*The celebrant says quietly:*

May the receiving of your Body and Blood, Lord Jesus Christ,  
not bring me to judgment and condemnation,  
but through your loving mercy  
be for me protection in mind and body  
and a healing remedy.

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

**Priest:** 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.

**All:** **Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**Priest:** May the Body of Christ  
keep me safe for eternal life.

**Priest:** May the Blood of Christ  
keep me safe for eternal life.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 147:12. 14

**All:** **O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,  
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.**

*Purifying the chalice the celebrant says quietly:*

What has passed our lips as food, O Lord,  
may we possess in purity of heart,  
that what has been given to us in time  
may be our healing for eternity.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Congregation kneels*

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
May the communion in your Sacrament  
that we have consumed, save us, O Lord,  
and confirm us in the light of your truth.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** **Amen**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** **And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** May the peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:** **Amen**

**Priest:** And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**All:** **Amen**

*Then the celebrant, with hands joined and facing the people, says:*

**Priest:** Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.  
**All:** **Thanks be to God.**



We pray for our beloved dead:

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Phelim (Felix) Connolly.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Jean McCartney: Barry Belshaw: Freddy Corr: Kathleen Catney: Sheila Goan: Teresa & Jim McCaugherty: Robert, Martha, Mona & Damien Kerr: Geraldine Mallon: Malachy Green: Thomas Brown: John Mulholland: Rose & Francie Dennison: Eileen Durkin.

#### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

**Monday 11 August** – St Clare, Virgin

**Tuesday 12 August** – St Attracta, Virgin

**Wednesday 13 August** – St Fachtha, Bishop

**Thursday 14 August** – St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr

**FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST IS THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**Mass times St. Patrick's Church, Lisburn:**

Vigil Mass - 7.30pm Thursday evening

Friday – 11.00am Mass

**ENROLMENT FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION 2026** is now open for children in the parish not attending Catholic Schools. To register your child please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible at 028 92 660206 or email [lisburn@downandconnor.org](mailto:lisburn@downandconnor.org)

#### INDIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite at 3.00pm Sunday, August 17th in St. Patrick's Church.

Please be aware the **LIVE STREAMING OF ALL MASSES** takes place in St. Patrick's Church. The Privacy Notice for the Diocese of Down and Connor is on display in the Church Porch, Parish Office and Pastoral Centre.

#### MEN'S JUBILEE CAMINO

Men's hike - Saturday September 13th 20kms, on greenway, from Dominican abbey (ruin) in Carlingford to Newry (St Catherine's) via Newry Cathedral (Jubilee Indulgence).

Mass, Adoration, Rosary, Confessions & Fraternity.

Registration & details on [www.dominicans.ie/events/](http://www.dominicans.ie/events/) . €70 (Lunch, dinner & bus), over 18's male event.

Enquiries to [op.evangelisation@gmail.com](mailto:op.evangelisation@gmail.com)

*Dear Lord,*

*Thank you for listening when there is no one else to turn to with my particular problem.*

*Thank you for understanding me when I can't understand myself.*

*Thank you for all I have - I take so much for granted.*

*Help me to accept any troubles, problems, worries I may have,*

*and give me the strength to face up to them,*

*with faith in your love and goodness.*

*Help me to live each day fully, as best I can.*

*This I ask through, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*

#### A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac. Lisburn Hibs

Saturday 16th August. 9pm – late. Ticket £15.

Admission by ticket only.

Tel: 07859920578 or 07594445024

#### BULLETIN NOTICES AND ANNIVERSARIES

Bulletin Notices must be handed into the **Parish Office or left in Post Box** by 12 noon on Monday to be included in the weekend bulletin.

**No notices regarding anniversaries, month's minds, etc to be left in sacristy.**

**Please note all emails to Parish Office should be addressed to – [lisburn@downandconnor.org](mailto:lisburn@downandconnor.org)**



## MORNING PRAYER

God of my life, I welcome this new day.  
It is your gift to me, a new creation, a promise of resurrection.  
I thank you for the grace of being alive this morning.  
I thank you for the sleep that has refreshed me.  
I thank you for this chance to make a new beginning.  
This day, Lord, is full of promise and opportunity; Let me waste none of it.  
This day is full of mystery and the unknown; help me to face it without fear or anxiety.  
This day is blessed with beauty and adventure; make me fully alive to it all.  
During this day keep me thoughtful, prayerful and kind.  
May I be courteous and helpful to others and not turned in on myself.  
Keep me from any word or deed that would hurt, or belittle or destroy;  
And may the thoughts of my mind be pleasing in your sight.  
When night comes again, may I look back on this day with no grievance or bitterness in my heart;  
And may nobody be unhappy because of anything I have done or anything I have failed to do.  
Lord, bless this day for me and for everyone.  
Make it a day in which we grow to have the mind of Christ, your Son.  
Lord Jesus Christ, friend and brother, may we know you more clearly,  
Love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

## Gospel Commentary

"Do not be afraid, little flock... Sell your possessions, and give away money to the poor." But if we were to do that (I say to myself) wouldn't we have even more reason to be afraid? Our greatest fear is that we will be left with nothing. Still, money doesn't bring happiness, everyone agrees. But then we go straight back to pursuing it as if it did. How is that? While perhaps not expecting it to bring us happiness, we hope it will at least take away our misery. But it doesn't. It only enables us to be miserable in comfort – then we can really concentrate on our misery.

Be alert, be ready, be waiting: that is the advice given in today's reading. "Be like those who are waiting for their master to return... Be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." A full purse, like a full stomach, makes you want to go to sleep. You become oblivious to everything except the stock market or your business – and that is a kind of sleep. All great religious figures kept shouting, 'Wake up!' It is not that everyone was dozing in the sun; no they were not: they were making money.

In an organised society money is necessary to live. It is a great convenience. It is about shortcuts. Instead of being a hunter-gatherer yourself, you pay someone to do your hunting and gathering for you, while you do some other useful thing. But we also know from experience that a shortcut can be the longest distance between two points. Some shortcuts lead you into the middle of a bog. Money is seductive because it appears to be the key to everything and everywhere: it is nothing in itself (it would be useless to you on a desert island), but it carries a promise of everything. Even when it fails you, it just changes its face (it has no face of its own) and seduces you in a different way. It lives on promise; it is a promissory note.

And it has this additional quality: just as it never shows you its real face (because it has none), it never shows you yours. Instead, it flashes an image before you of what you could be. It never warns you that when you are rich you will still be just a poor man with money.

There was once a wealthy man who decided to donate a large amount of money to a monastery. To his great surprise, the abbot said, 'No thanks, we have enough at present.' The rich man pressed him to take it anyway, but he refused politely. Suddenly the rich man began to weep. 'You have made me realise how poor I am,' he said, 'I have nothing to offer you except money.'

Jesus gave many warnings about the seductions of wealth. There is nothing wrong with the material things of the world in themselves. It is our greed that makes them seductive. If my purse is always full, I will think only about getting a bigger purse. And it will fade gradually from my awareness that half the world is hungry. And I may also fail to notice that I am hungry myself, because my heart is empty. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." If money is my treasure, there will be nothing in my heart except money.

Fr Donagh O'Shea, O.P.,  
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