

SEASON OF

(Season of Creation 2 – Luke 15:1-32) By Sally Simpson

In today's Gospel from Luke 15, we have 2 brothers. And as is sometimes the case in families, they don't seem to have much of a relationship with each other. Yet both of them can proclaim "Our Father".

One son "squandered his property in dissolute living" and we read that he is then faced with famine. During this Season of Creation, this text echoes the squandering of the earth's resources. We have used and abused the resources of the earth with greed, placing "I" at the centre, dominating all of creation and God's creatures. We are now seeing the consequences of this squandering as our world faces multiple environmental crises. We have squandered our inheritance and the inheritance of future generations. Our lack of wisdom and over consumption has led to massive extinction of animal and plant species, the oceans are dying, rainforests are being destroyed, the climate is in crisis. While this is the result of our life-styles the consequences of our actions are being lived by our brothers and sisters in other

parts of our common home. They are in poverty, they are homeless, without food and clean water, without education for the children, without health care. These are our brothers and sisters living in this way. Can we look at them and say with them "Our Father"? Pope Francis tells us in Laudato Si' that "Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth...The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now. (LS, 161). Laudato Si' also tells us that "all is not lost". Like the younger son in the parable today we can 'come to our senses', turn around, and make a new start. Each of us can do something, each of us has a role to play in order to bring healing to our common home. We ask "Our Father" for forgiveness and we can pledge to living out our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork.

As we all 'come to our senses' in relation to the climate and biodiversity crises, Pope Francis tells us in Laudato Si' to never underestimate the power of small actions which can have a ripple effect across a community; he tells us that "Truly, much can be done!" (LS, 180). So today, during this Season of Creation, we are invited to take up this call, to listen to the voice of creation and discern where we are being called to act, in our own homes, in our local communities, to care more deeply for our common home.

**Priesthood-consider the call:** COME & SEE – September 16th to 18th 2022 (residential). A 'Come and See' Vocations discernment residential weekend will take place in Ballyvaloo Retreat Centre, Blackwater, Wexford. It is open to men 18 and over who would like to know more about the priesthood. The weekend will include prayer, fun and the opportunity to meet with priests and people who will offer encouragement, friendship, and support. For further info. and to book a place: contact Fr Billy Swan at: billyswan68@ hotmail.com.

**The Men for Christ Conference 2022** - a Catholic Conference for Men will be LIVE & EXCLUSIVE on Radio Maria Ireland Saturday 17th September from 2pm. Speakers for this year's Conference are Fr. Jamie Twohig SAC, John Pridmore, David Quinn and Fr. Marius O'Reilly.

**Upcoming Monastic experience Day** at the Poor Clares Galway on 24th September from 10 am—5 pm. The day is designed to help young women who are exploring the possibility of a religious vocation to find out more about the Poor Clare way of life. If you are under 40 and would like to attend, you can book a place at vocations@poorclares.ie

A photographic exhibition will be unveiled in Ballinamore Library on Tuesday evening September 13<sup>th</sup> to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> year of An Garda Síochána. Ballinamore born Historian, Dr. Liam McNiffe, author of the book 'A History of the Garda Síochána' will also give a talk entitled 'Setting up the Garda Síochána 1922 – Mutiny and Disarming' at 7.30pm.

**Hedge Cutting Grant 2022/2023:** This scheme is now open and aims to encourage the cutting of roadside hedges/trees along the Public Road Network. Open to all, individual applicants, communities and groups. The Grant is €75 per km of the roadside hedge/ overhanging trees which are cut back. Minimum length of road network per application is 1km. Further information and application forms are available from Leitrim County Councils website http://www.leitrimcoco.ie or by contacting the Roads Department on roads@leitrim coco.ie or 071 9620005 / 630. Closing Date is Tuesday 31st January 2023.

**Hospice Coffee Morning Fundraiser in Aughavas National School:** Coffee Morning to raise funds for North West Hospice will be held in Aughavas National School directly after 11.30am Mass on Sunday 25th September. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Offertory Collection: (28th Aug.) Aughavas € 590.00; (27th/28th Aug.) Cloone € 370.00.