



ST. BERNADETTE'S RC CHURCH TULLIBODY



Newsletter

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14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat	4 July	8.45am - 9.15am 9.30am 5.30pm	Confessions Mass Vigil Mass
Sun	5 July	8.30am 11.30am	Mass Mass Sea Sunday Special Collection
Mon	6 July	9.30am	Mass
Tues	7 July	~ ~ ~ ~	No Services
Wed	8 July	9.30am	Mass
Thurs	9 July	9.30am	Mass. Our Lady of Aberdeen
Fri	10 July	7pm	Mass
Sat	11 July	8.45am - 9.15am 9.30am 5.30pm	Confessions Mass Vigil Mass
Sun	12 July	8.30am 11.30am	Mass Mass

This Sunday's Readings	
First Reading	Zechariah 9: 9-10
Psalm	145(144): 1-2, 8-11, 13-14
Second Reading	Romans 8: 9, 11-13
Gospel	Matthew 11: 25-30

Last Sunday's Collection	
Non Gift Aid	£250.39
Gift Aid	£346.00
Peter's Pence	£380.99
Total	£977.38

Prayer Requests
Those who are sick ~ Joan Jones, Msgr. Basil O’Sullivan, Natalie Otalini, Jade Dicerbo, Stuart Mason, Sean McCann, Carly Mournian, Brendan Murphy, Vincent McDaid, Peter Douglas, Mary Gordon, Mary Hughes, Peter & Margaret Stark, Sarah Jane Connelly, Duncan McGregor, Maria McIntyre, John & Trisha Smith, Drs. Diane & Mike Basquill, Maurice Di Duca, Cathy McCallum, Archie Gallaway, Cathy Fox, Jim McKay, Peter Caproni, Laura Laing, Susan Duvall, Brian Robertson, Melissa Brown, Margo Tobin, John Lawlor and Lisa Mcilwrath, Fr. Hutchinson, Margaret Smith, Kath Massanopoli, Bobby Williamson, Corbin Hollywood, Harry Reid
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time ~ Agnes Roberts, Bob Huber, George Campbell, Richard Clarke, Winnie Conlan, Moira Doherty, Iain Burns, Margaret Reid, Susanne Hughes, Emma Dryisdale, Tom Harvey, Mgr. Tony Duffy.

Peter's pence?

Peter’s Pence originated in Anglo-Saxon England during the 8th or 9th century as an annual tax of one penny per household, paid to the papacy in Rome. Historically known as *Denarius Sancti Petri* (Alms of Saint Peter), it was championed by English kings like Offa of Mercia and Alfred the Great. Over the centuries, the concept and administration of Peter's Pence evolved:

Early Medieval Origins

- Anglo-Saxon Roots:** The tribute originally began as an offering from pilgrims, which subsequently grew into a formalized annual collection by English kings to demonstrate loyalty to the Pope.
- The "Penny":** Historically, one penny was collected from every landowning household (often referred to as "hearth-penny" or "Rome-scot") to support the papacy and house English pilgrims in Rome.

- **Abolition:** It was officially abolished in England by Parliament under King Henry VIII during the English Reformation in 1534.

Modern Evolution

- **Global Papal Support:** Pope Pius IX formalized the practice for the worldwide Catholic Church in 1871.
- **Today's Practices:** The annual collection is traditionally taken up globally around June 29 on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul.

The [Peter's Pence Annual Disclosure](#) provides a detailed breakdown of where these donations go: [1]

- **Support for the Apostolic Mission (~80%-85%):** The vast majority of the funds are transferred to the Roman Curia to maintain the Church's global operations, including the Vatican's diplomatic missions (nunciatures), evangelization efforts, and administrative staff.
- **Direct Humanitarian & Charitable Aid (~15%-20%):** A dedicated portion of the funds goes directly to the Pope to aid victims of natural disasters, war, and famine, as well as to support refugees, migrants, and healthcare projects in vulnerable countries.

Recent Vatican financial reports highlight that expenditures from this fund frequently outpace the income generated by the annual collections, requiring the Vatican to draw from its financial reserves.

The United States is historically the largest contributor to the annual Peter's Pence collection, followed by France, Italy, Brazil, and Germany. While the U.S. generates the highest overall amount (roughly 25% of the total), Ireland gives the most per capita.

The Vatican typically releases official geographic contribution data in its mid-year financial reports. The breakdown of global giving is as follows:

- **United States:** ~25.2% (contributing over €13.7 million annually)
- **France:** ~15.0% (contributing roughly €8 million)
- **Italy:** ~5.2%
- **Brazil:** ~3.0%
- **Germany:** ~2.8%
- **Other significant contributors:** South Korea, Mexico, Ireland, Spain, and Colombia

The Spiritual Side of Vacation

The Rev. Susan E. Hill, Associate

As a spiritual director, I'm often asked to help my directees with their spiritual lives and prayer practices. Some of them are working on getting some prayer practices going, while others want to go deeper into the spiritual life they already have. Their practices might consist of daily prayers, scripture or devotional reading, silent meditation, long walks in nature, or any number of other kinds of disciplines that help them connect to God.

I find it fascinating, though, that many of them struggle to keep praying when they are on vacation! One of the main reasons people are challenged in starting or maintaining spiritual practices (just like more physical kinds of exercise!) is that they feel that they just don't have time. Yet vacation is often when we have fewer time constraints, when we have much more freedom to set our schedule. So why don't we keep on praying, or reading scripture, etc?! Perhaps we feel we need a vacation from our faith (and/or from God?!). Or for those of us vacationing with family, there may be a shortage of quiet/alone time. Or maybe it is just that we are out of our usual routine, and so it doesn't even occur to us to keep up our spiritual practices.

Whatever the reason, please allow me to push back gently! Keeping prayer and other spiritual practices going during vacation can lead to a deepening and increasing richness in our lives. Without the usual bustle and distractions of our lives, we may find unexpected dimensions to our faith. Even if there is a shortage of alone time, bringing some meditative intentionality to everyday tasks like brushing your teeth or doing dishes can be fruitful. And there is great spiritual benefit in having fun, benefit that can enliven our prayer practices as well!

Finally you might spend some time with one of my favourite prayers from our Book of Common Prayer (p 825):

For the Good Use of Leisure

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!