

## BLACKBERRY PICKING

*By Seamus Heaney*

Late August, given heavy rain and sun  
For a full week, the blackberries would ripen.  
At first, just one, a glossy purple clot  
Among others, red, green, hard as a knot.  
You ate that first one and its flesh was sweet  
Like thickened wine: summer's blood was in it  
Leaving stains upon the tongue and lust for  
Picking. Then red ones inked up and that hunger  
Sent us out with milk cans, pea tins, jam-pots  
Where briars scratched and wet grass bleached our boots.  
Round hayfields, cornfields and potato-drills  
We trekked and picked until the cans were full  
Until the tinkling bottom had been covered  
With green ones, and on top big dark blobs burned  
Like a plate of eyes. Our hands were peppered  
With thorn pricks, our palms sticky as Bluebeard's.  
We hoarded the fresh berries in the byre.  
But when the bath was filled we found a fur,  
A rat-grey fungus, glutting on our cache.  
The juice was stinking too. Once off the bush  
The fruit fermented, the sweet flesh would turn sour.  
I always felt like crying. It wasn't fair  
That all the lovely canfuls smelt of rot.  
Each year I hoped they'd keep, knew they would not.



Mass will be on our Parish Web-  
site at [www.culdaffparish.com](http://www.culdaffparish.com)  
and [churchmedia.tv](http://churchmedia.tv)

**Monday 7.30pm**  
**Tuesday. 10 am**  
**Wednesday, 10 am;**

**Thursday, 7.30 pm,**

**Saturday, Feast of the  
Assumption,**

**Vigil Mass on Friday at  
7.30 pm [Patrick Duncan,  
Croragh];**

**Saturday, 10 am.**

**Saturday Vigil 8 pm;**

**Sunday, 10am.**

**19th Sunday in Ordinary  
Time Year A.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Let us see, O Lord, your  
mercy and give us your  
saving help.**

St Mary's Church

Bocan

9th August 2020 No. 38



Fr. Brian Brady, P.P., V.F 9376264

Fr. Karl Haan C.C. 9379107

[www.culdaffparish.com](http://www.culdaffparish.com)

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### First Reading

*1 Kings 19:9a,11-13a*

The Lord appears to Elijah in a whisper.

### Second Reading

*Romans 9:1-5*

Paul speaks of the blessings that have come to the Israelites.

### Gospel Reading

*Matthew 14:22-33*

Jesus walks on water, and the disciples acknowledge him as the Son of God.

Get Out  
of the  
Boat  
Matthew 14:22-33

**Weekly Offering €725;**

**Development Collection €395**

**Good as New Shop €605**

We are deeply appreciative of the generosity of our parishioners at this difficult time. Envelopes can be left in McGuinness' Shop or brought to the Church at weekend Masses.

N.B. Would any of counters who are available come along after 10 am Mass. A new rota will be drawn up when we can get a bit more normality again.

### THE DEEP END • Fear and Faith

How often are we motivated by fear? Fear of looking silly, fear of being laughed at or rejected, fear of failure, fear of losing everything we have worked for – some of these fears will be familiar to us.

In the Gospels fear is often the opposite of faith. Peter has enough faith to get out of the boat and start walking on the water, but as soon as he feels the force of the wind he becomes afraid and begins to sink. Sometimes we start out fine but lose motivation or momentum along the way. Events seem to conspire against us, we get tired and fearful, and it is easier to just give up.

Some of the most powerful and consoling words of Jesus are contained in this Gospel passage: 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' When we are afraid, Jesus is there to lift us out of our fear. When we lose faith, doubt ourselves, and feel as though we are sinking, Jesus stretches out his hand to us. Next time you are panicking, stressed or fearful, spend some time in prayer. If you struggle to find the words, why not echo Peter's cry, 'Lord! Save me!' Let Jesus lift you back into the boat and help you get back on track.

Triona Doherty

**A HELPING HAND** Most often you tend to undersell your capacity to be helpful, or you underestimate in what ways you can assist others. You have power to do so much good, and that reflects back on yourself and can enhance your happiness. There are countless ways you can extend your hands: your kind words, compliments, smiles, words of love, understanding, or sympathy. If people leave your presence feeling uplifted, or a little better about themselves for having met you, you are a "practising" Christian. If they can walk a little taller or have a better outlook on life for having spoken with you, you are fulfilling your calling in an exemplary way. It's the little things that count in following Jesus. Imitate the Lord in his gestures. Make it a habit to stretch out your hand.

**Community Employment.** Vacancies have arisen on the Culdaff Community Employment Project for the following positions. Clerical Assistant based at Carrowmena Community Centre, Maintenance person based at Carrowmena Football club and General Workers based in Culdaff, Carrowmena and Gleneely areas. Anyone interested is asked to contact 9379832 or 0868452901. Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection terms and conditions apply.

As part of National Heritage Week, William McElhinney, is holding a @Guided seashore safari on 15th August 20 at 7 to 8.30 pm at Kinnagoe Bay as an introduction on how to forage for seaweed. This will be followed up by a talk and cookery demonstration by William on the 19th August in Carrowmenagh Community Centre at 11 am - 12.30 pm. Please contact Carrowmenagh Community Centre (93 67251 or [carrowmenaghschool@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carrowmenaghschool@yahoo.co.uk)) to register your interest.

The annual Youth 2000 Summer Festival is Ireland's largest Catholic Youth event, but this year, for the first time, it will be streamed live on the 14th-16th of August. Hear talks and workshops from some of the best Catholic speakers including Fr. John Harris OP, Dr. Scott Hahn, John Pridmore, Petroc Willey (University of Steubenville), Katie Ascough, Sr. Colleen Mattingly, Sr. Mary Hanrahan, Bill Keimig (University of Steubenville), Beth Davis (Blessed is She) and others from Ireland and around the world. Youth 2000 Ireland's motto is 'Youth leading Youth to the Heart of the Church' and we do this by leading Eucharistic-centred festivals, retreats and prayer meetings throughout the country. Register FREE at [www.youth2000.ie/summerfestival2020](http://www.youth2000.ie/summerfestival2020)

**The Rosary will be recited in the cemetery in Culdaff after 10 am Mass on the Feast of the Assumption.**

Angela's Good as New Shop is now open in aid of Parish Funds. She is in Farren's premises on Pound St Carndonagh. She would greatly appreciate donations of old clothes of Bric a Brac, and if you can help her with this then contact her on 087 9028930 she can collect it if you are unable to leave home at present.