



ST. GABRIEL'S NOTES

7th February 2021



Time to be Slow

by John O'Donohue

*This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.*

*Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.*

*If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of
promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.*



“Hope Springs Eternal”

Last Tuesday was a day that lifted my spirits. It was the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, where he was met by two elderly people - Simeon and Anna - who never left the Temple, praying and waiting for the promised Messiah. Their hope was rewarded (cf Luke 2:21-40)

After Mass I listened to Archbishop Dermot Farrell's installation. His homily was full of hope and challenge:

“Today I stand before you more than aware of my own inadequacies. But you and I stand before God, the giver of life who is our hope and our help.”

The Archbishop admits it is a demanding task, but -

“God who calls us all can be counted on to empower us to respond generously.”

With these uplifting thoughts I set out for my daily walk. I noticed under the trees the snowdrops appearing - a sign of Spring and new hope in the barren soil.

On my way home I met a parishioner and asked “how are you?” Her reply - “I’m doing the best I can in these difficult times.” I noticed she had a bunch of flowers which I remarked on. Her reply: “They are for my friend to brighten her day.”

I went home asking myself how I could brighten up someone else's day!

Diocesan and Parish Finances

With the lockdowns as a result of COVID-19, the finances of the Diocese and Parish have suffered. For the month of January both the Church collections have fallen substantially –

	2020	2021
First Collection	€6,225	€2,497
Share Collection	€4,805	€1,391



DONATE

You can donate to both of these collections either through the DONATE Button on our website or by making an envelope donation. Special envelopes are available in the Church and can be dropped into the secure boxes located at the main entrance to the Church. There are also ‘Tap & Donate’ points located at the back of the Church.

Our sincere thanks to those of you who continue to regularly support these collections and hopefully more of you will take the opportunity to do so.