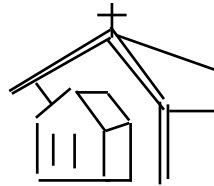


# GLANMIRE PARISH

9<sup>th</sup> August 2015

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August is The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
It is a Holy day of obligation.**

St Joseph's Church	St Michael's Church
Mon - Fri 10.00 am Friday Vigil 6pm	
<b>Saturday 11 am</b> Saturday (Vigil) 6pm	<b>Saturday 10 am</b>
Sunday 9.00; 10.30, 12.00	Sunday 10.00 am

St Joseph's Church Adoration Monday night 8.30 pm – 9.30 pm. Fri 10am – 10pm.  
St Michael's Church Thursday 10 am – Noon

Fr John Newman Tel.087. 2485684, Fr John Heinhold Tel.087 1689292.  
Parish mobile. 086.8168668 Parish website:www.glanmireparish.ie/  
Parish office open Tues. Wed. & Thurs. 10 am to 1 pm. Tel:4820654

### **The Bread with has come down from heaven.**

In today's Gospel, when Jesus announced to the crowd at the synagogue at Capernaum that he was the "bread which had come down from heaven," they must have been very startled by his remarkable claim. But it is no wonder they were puzzled by what he said.

I well remember being at a talk some years ago on the prophets. In the middle of the talk a young man went to the podium and announced that he was Elijah returned from heaven. The speaker was startled to say the least, especially when he realized the young man was perfectly serious about what he was saying. He wanted to take over the meeting and teach us because he was convinced he was Elijah. Our reaction, of course, was to disregard his claim. We recognized that he

was a troubled and disturbed young man who needed help, and we gently removed him from the meeting so we could go on.

Perhaps some of the people listening to Jesus felt like doing that. You can almost see in your mind's eye their reaction, how they turned to each other with cynical looks on their faces and said, "What does he mean? What is he talking about? Come on, how can anybody 'come down from heaven'? We know him." They immediately forgot all the wonderful things they had heard Jesus say and do. They forgot the healings, the miracles, and even the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand which had taken place just a day earlier.

Many people today react that way to any mention of Jesus. People almost invariably take the position that Jesus was a significant figure, a teacher who knew a great deal about life, but he was nothing more than an ordinary man. This is how the crowd at the synagogue reacted: "We know him. Why, he grew up in Nazareth right over the hill. We know Joseph and Mary, his mother and father. He is a carpenter's son. He is just like one of us."

Their reaction was to doubt his claim because, of course, they, like many today, were the victims of incomplete facts and Jesus tried to set them straight; "Stop complaining to each other, no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except him who is from God; he has seen the Father. I tell you most solemnly, anybody who believes has eternal life."

The problem with the Jews in the synagogue was that they were still looking back across the centuries to the time when their fathers were fed manna in the wilderness. They attributed that to Moses, but Jesus had corrected that already. He said it was not Moses who gave them the manna, it was God. Although that manna kept them alive physically, it could do nothing for them eternally. These people were still hung up by ineffective symbols which they were relying on for faith.

Many people do that yet today. They trust the fact that they were baptized, that they joined a church, that they were confirmed in some religious ceremony or some other symbol of life, rather than life itself. Jesus says this does no good, and the proof of his words is physical death. Jesus says that death without him means eternal separation -- death, real death; but physical death with him means to enter into life, and that he alone can give that hope beyond this life, of life eternal with him. No one else can do it!

26 <sup>th</sup> July	St Joseph's	1,218	St Michael's	194	Total €1,412
2 <sup>nd</sup> August	St Joseph's	1,227	St Michael's	237	Total €1,464

A meeting will take place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30 pm in St Michael's Church to present proposed renovations to the grounds, sacristy and church. All welcome.