



Reflection 15th Week of the Year 12 / 13 July
by Mgr Daniel McHugh

Some Seeds ... fell in rich soil and produced their crop

Yesterday evening, on arriving back from my Pilgrimage to Cascia, I went straight to Earslwood Lakes (for a walk) passing by the lovely bed of wild flowers at the Box Tree roundabout. I thought I will stop on the way back to take a picture to post to Facebook. It is such a beautiful display that I enjoy every year. It looks so natural and it is, but I am sure someone took trouble to sow and plant it with care. I hope those who look at the post will feel something of the joy that I get from it.

Then I was listening and watching (not what I do normally) at 9.15 today the Andrew Marr Show. I just wondered who might be interviewed. Away since last Monday, I suppose I must have been missing my regular "political fix"! I am delighted I did, because the main interview was with the new Taoiseach of Ireland, Micheal Martin. Marr asked him questions on Corona and travel, and Brexit of course, but ended with Jack Charlton, the great Leeds and England player, who became Manager of Ireland.

"What did he think of him and his contribution?" The word he used was the word I used of the wildflower corner at Box Trees. Jack Charlton and the team had brought "joy" to Ireland, he lifted the whole country at the end of the 80s, beginning of the 90s with the team going all the way to the quarter finals in the World Cup, a most unexpected achievement. I thought of the interview on the Radio on the way from the Airport yesterday: David O'Leary, who had scored a fantastic goal, was asked by the interviewer "what was Jack like, what did he say to you?" He replied "Jack was Jack, he came to me and said "I knew you'd do it!""

The joy he brought was something like Ranieri brought to Leicester when they won the Championship a few years ago. He took his team to the Shrine of St Rita of Cascia, which I have just visited. There is a link between nature and faith that Our Lord makes in the Gospel today and that achievement in sport brings and that is "joy". Ranieri's success was linked to his Faith, and the miracle worked at Leicester he saw coming through the prayer of St Rita, Patron of the Impossible, the Augustinian Nun, who died in Cascia.

The hard work and training involved in footballing success, is similar to the toil involved in sowing and nurturing the flowers and vegetables for food, that give us life; both teach us about the joy of the Faith that underpins our life, the truths given us in Jesus, that set us free.

Monsignor Daniel McHugh

Co-ordinator for Ethnic Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

Ethnic Chaplaincies

A famous Catechist in this Diocese, Canon Drinkwater, called the Magazine he authored to pass on the Truths of Faith, “the Sower”. Clearly, he took that name from the Gospel of the Sower from this Sunday’s Mass.

All of us teaching and passing on the Faith, know, it is hard work in an unbelieving environment. Our aim makes it worthwhile: that our children, our friends, will come to know the joy of the Truth that Jesus came to bring.

We pray then for Priests, Parents, Teachers, Catechists and all engaged in this noble task.

12 July 2020

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