

Church of the Holy Name, Beechwood Avenue Upper, Ranelagh, Dublin 6.

Celebrating 100 years – 1914 to 2014

www.beechwoodparish.com

Newsletter 17th January 2016 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Is 62: 1-5

Psalms 95: 1-3, 7-10, R/ v 3

Second Reading Cor 12: 4 - 11

Gospel Jn 2: 1-11

Mass times

Daily Mass Monday to Saturday at 10.00am

Vigil Mass Saturday at 6.15pm

Sunday 10.00 (Irish) and 11.30am (Family Mass)

Masses on Holy Days :Vigil Mass of the Holy Day at 7.30pm with Masses on the day at 10.00am and 7.30pm

Confessions before and after Saturday Mass.

Baptisms

The parish baptisms are held on the first Saturday and last Sunday of each month at 12.30pm. Prior booking with the Parish Administrator is essential. A copy of the child's civil birth certificate must be provided at the time the booking is made. Please note also that godparents must be at least 16 years of age and must be confirmed.

Wedding bookings strictly by appointment with the Parish Administrator.

Child Protection Representative contactable via childprotection@beechwoodparish.com or through the Parish Office.

Ministers of the Eucharist 17th January

6.15 pm Nora Palmer

10.00am Mary Keane

11.30am Anne Dollard, Colman Boylan,
David K'Eogh

Minister attending Gascoigne Home

F. Murphy

Collections for last weekend

1st collection € 729

2nd collection € 585

Shrines/books/family offering € 562

Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sunday 17th 10.00am pro populo

11.30am Adhamhnan McGinley (A)

Also remembering Michael and

Mary McMahon (A)

Monday 18th 10.00am Gearoid Ni Bhroin (A)

Tuesday 19th 10.00am

Wednesday 20th 10.00am Andrew

& Pat Horne (A) also

Mary & David Moclair (A) and

Mella Carroll

Thursday 21st 10.00am

Friday 22nd 10.00am Gerry Bell (A)

Saturday 23rd 10.00am Margaret Carton (A)

6.15pm John Garvey (A)

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the late Sr. Mary Immaculata Gallacher (Holy Rosary Sisters, Temple Road) who died this week and whose funeral will take place here on Monday at 11.00am. May she rest in peace. We offer our sympathy to her bereaved family and to her community.

Sunday 24th January 2016 at 3pm

An Ecumenical Service will be held in the Church of St Columbanus and Gall, Milltown as part of Church Unity Octave. We would encourage you all to attend alongside congregations from the Methodist Church Leeson Park and St Phillips, Temple Road and Sandford Parish Church.

Free Seminar on "Nursing Home versus Homecare", Thursday 28 January at 7:00pm. Heritage Homecare and Belmont House Nursing Home will jointly deliver a talk on Fair Deal and Homecare at Milltown Parish Centre. Topics covered will include: How Fair Deal works and how to apply; What costs will I have to pay under Fair Deal?; the Homecare option and steps involved in arranging Homecare; tax relief. No booking is necessary, just turn up! Any enquiries to Heritage Homecare at 01 230 0020.

Fr. Bernard Kennedy, Adm: M.A., M.Sc. 67, Edenvale Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6. Tel (01) 4972165;

Email: kennedybernard3@gmail.com

Fr. Joseph Doran 0872288579

Parish Office (church grounds) opening hours Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30am – 1pm

Mary Newman Parish Secretary Tel (01) 4967449 email info@beechwoodparish.com

Sr. Teresa McAllister Parish Sister c/o Parish Office, Tel 01 (4967449)

DAVID BOWIE: HOW THE MAN WHO SOLD THE WORLD NEVER STOPPED SEARCHING FOR GOD

13 January 2016 | by [Gianfranco Ravasi](#)

Iconic music legend was on a never-ending quest to define his own spirituality



Tributes to David Bowie who died on Sunday have highlighted the power of his songs, his originality and his creativity. Here a leading Roman cardinal, Gianfranco Ravasi, finds evidence also of a struggle with faith.

My memory of David Bowie arises from an effort I made long ago to uncover his secret and implicit spirituality. This was always in the background, always a preoccupation for him. Yet few realised this when he was recording *Station to Station*, released in 1977. In an album that reflected his darkest years Bowie, who five years previously in one of his lyrics had entrusted salvation to aliens, dedicated himself to the Stations of the Cross.

He prayed, in the depths of his addictions and lacerating questions: “Lord, I kneel and offer you my word on a wing / And I’m trying hard to fit among your scheme of things.”

But Bowie’s quest was unfinished and it did not cease to torment him, while always enriching his art. In those days – he himself told us – he wore for many years a small silver crucifix. His was a search, a questioning, that went to a greater

height and plumbed a deeper mystery than any answers or responses were able to reach.

So, for example, Bowie sought to understand the meaning of prayer in “Loving the Alien”, a track from the album *Tonight*, released in 1984. He asks if our invocations to God hid truth within them, if religion was not believing – once again – only in an alien: “And your prayers they break the sky in two / You pray ’til the break of dawn.”

The references in Bowie’s art and music to spirituality, often in anguish and torment, are more than can be counted, and were never excluded from his life. “I’m a young man at odds / With the bible / But I don’t pretend faith never works / When we’re down on our knees / Prayin’ at the bus stop,” he wrote in “Bus Stop”, one of the tracks on the album *Tin Machine* (1989).

The arrival of Jesus on earth left Bowie with a mix of hope and incredulity. Yet he never abandoned that part of his soul, he never ceased asking for a sign from God: “Open up your heart to me / Show me who you are / And I would be your slave ... Give me peace of mind at last / Show me all you are / Open up your heart to me (“I Would Be Your Slave” from the album *Heathen*, 2002).

He played with these ideas sometimes, as when in 2003 he declared: “I am not quite an atheist and it worries me, but give me a couple of months!” He would confess, with a smile on his lips, that as the years went by his questions were fewer but deeper and more painful.

The moral tension in Bowie was vivid and once led him to say: “There’s a growth in knowledge that’s not real evolution. Ethically, humanity is not progressing. As animals we have not changed: we kill and seek to survive.”

This moral tension will certainly be present in his final album, *Blackstar*, released only two days before his death. I am not fully familiar with it yet, but I am sure that this great original, a leading protagonist of contemporary music, who was always on the unstable boundary between the sacred and the profane, will again speak, in his own way, of the spiritual.

Bowie’s unique voice managed – even if “laically”, in a non-churchy way – to make the souls of all those with a restless conscience vibrate.

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi is President of the Pontifical Council for Culture.