At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong. He was out there, sort of like a president. But later when I met Christ, it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Christ was in the back helping me to pedal. I don’t know just when it was that he suggested that we change places, but life has not been the same since.

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He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, my Lord’s and mine.

And we were off again.

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And when I’m sure I just can’t do anymore, He just smiles and says.....“PEDAL”.

Photograph of Fr. Maurice celebrating Mass in the Church of Dominus Flevit (The Lord Wept) on the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem
[Photo Taken by G. Somers]
27th APRIL 2014 - A VERY SPECIAL DAY - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Canonisation of both Blessed Pope John Paul II and Blessed Pope John XXIII

FATHER MAURICE’S JOURNEY SINCE HIS ORDINATION

Ordained in Holy Cross College, Clonliffe, Dublin 3 May 17th 1964
Celebrated Mass in Dominican House, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin Jul - Aug 1964
Saint Fintan’s Church, Sutton, Dublin 13 Sep 1964 - 1969
Church of the Sacred Heart, Donnybrook, Dublin 4 Apr 1969 - 1972
Church of Our Lady of Mercy, Artane, Dublin 5 Jul 1972 - 1977
Church of the Holy Name, Beechwood Avenue, Ranelagh, Dublin 6 Sep 1977 - 1983
Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Ashford & Jul 1983 - 1987
Saint Joseph’s Church, Glenealy, Co. Wicklow
Church of the Good Shepherd, Churchtown, Dublin 14 Jun 1987 - 1995
Saint Finian’s Church, River Valley, Swords, Co. Dublin Jul 1995 - 2004
Church of Our Lady Mother of the Church, Castleknock, Dublin 15 2004 - 2014

CELEBRATING HOLY MASS:

Bishop Ray Field Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin
Fr. Maurice O’Shea P.E.
Canon Diarmuid Connolly Retired, Dublin Diocese
Fr. Denis O’Connor C.Ss.R., Curate Castleknock
Fr. Mick Cullen Administrator, Castleknock

SPECIAL GUESTS

Eithne & Tony Byrne Fr. Maurice’s Sister & Husband
Aideen & Paul Kelly and Family Fr. Maurice’s Niece & Family
Sinead & Mike Wilson and Family Fr. Maurice’s Niece (Home from Australia)
Killian Byrne Fr. Maurice’s Nephew
Bishop Ray Field Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin
Fr. John Hassett Ministered with Fr. Maurice in River Valley
Rev. Paul Houston Rector of Castleknock
Rev. Adrienne Galligan (Rev. Paul’s wife) Rector of Calbridge

AND many more friends who are joining Fr Maurice today on this great occasion
THE PROCESSION OF SYMBOLS REPRESENTING FR. O’SHEA’S PRIESTLY LIFE

1. **Letter of Appointment** is brought by Eithne, Fr. Maurice’s sister and his grandniece Amber - representative of the Journey that Fr. Maurice has taken since his ordination on May 17th 1964.

2. **A Carved Replica from Bethlehem of the Last Supper** where Jesus commissioned his Apostles to “Do this in memory of me” is brought by Michael Walsh and represents Fr Maurice’s celebration of Holy Mass and the Eucharist.

3. **Fr. Maurice’s Stole** is brought by Albert Murphy - representing all the years that Fr. Maurice ministered to his flock and helped us appreciate the Word of God.

4. **A Small Wooden Cross** is brought by Rosemary McDevitt - one of many carried and exchanged on pilgrimages with Fr. Maurice.

5. **A Replica of St James the Pilgrim** is brought by Mary Boyle - representative of Fr. Maurice’s Cycling Journey on the Camino de Santiago in 1987 and his love of cycling and travel since receiving his first bike ‘Hercules’ from Santa Claus in 1948.

6. **An Ethiopian Flag** is brought by Stephanie Ryan - representative of Fr. Maurice’s vision to ‘reach out into the deep’ and his role in realising this vision through the partnership between Castleknock and Metcha Borodo in Ethiopia. Fr. travelled to Metcha Borodo during 2012 and met with Fr. Mulgeta.

7. **The Papal Blessing** is brought by Marie Moloney - representative of Fr. Maurice celebrating his Golden Jubilee on the same day as the Canonisation of both Blessed Pope John Paul II and Blessed Pope John XXIII.

8. **A Card for your Golden Jubilee and your Retirement** is brought by Brendan Scallon - capturing the message of love and appreciation of your friends and parishioners.
THE MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITE

OPENING HYMN

Our God Reigns

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him
Who brings good news, good news
Announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness
Our God reigns, Our God reigns

Our God reigns, Our God reigns
Our God reigns, Our God reigns

You watchmen lift your voices joyfully as one
Shout for your King, your King
See eye to eye, the Lord restoring Zion
Our God reigns, Our God reigns

Our God reigns, Our God reigns
Our God reigns, Our God reigns

WELCOME

Mel Gilligan

PROCESSION OF SYMBOLS

Narrator
Music

Kathleen Henderson
Phelim Kelly

PENITENTIAL ACT

KYRIE

Lead by the Family Group

GLORIA

Lead by the Parish Choir

COLLECT

Let us pray.
God of everlasting mercy,
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,
that all may grasp and rightly understand
in what font they have been washed,
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Acclaimed by Margaret Brady

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles
The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the Apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the Apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Like A Shepherd Lead by the Family Group

SECOND READING

Acclaimed by Therese Leonard

A Reading from the first letter of St. Peter
Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God’s power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without
seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Seinn Alleluia

Lead by the Folk Group

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you
And with your spirit.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!'

Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not
recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the
Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

Bishop Ray Field

PRAYER OVER FR. MAURICE

Bishop Ray Field, Parish Pastoral Council & Congregation
Aisling O’Mahony presents the candles to the council members.

Most gracious Heavenly Father,
On this, the occasion of his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood and as a mark of his retirement,
We, the parishioners of Castleknock Parish, thank you, Heavenly Father, for the 50 years of outstanding service of your most faithful priest, Fr. Maurice O’Shea, whose spiritual fatherhood and example of fidelity, self-sacrifice and devotion has been and continues to be, so vital to the faith of your people.
We thank you for all the years that he ministered for your Kingdom.
Give him in retirement, continual and valiant faith in the face of confusion and conflict, hope in time of trouble and sorrow and steadfast love for you, for all families, and for all your people.
May Fr. Maurice continue to share faith with all who will continue to rely on him or seek his counsel.
May the light of your Truth continue to shine through his life.
Assist all your priests that through your Grace, and with the example of such a good and holy priest, we, the parishioners of Castleknock, may continue to grow in holiness, and in knowledge and understanding of your Truth.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, the Great High Priest, and invoke the blessings and protection of Mary, the Mother of the Church, on him now.
May he be continually guided by the example of St. John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of priests. Amen.

CREED

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Margaret McGill
Valerie Somers
Tony Byrne

River Valley Parish
Churchtown Parish
Fr. Maurice’s brother in Law
LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN
All That I Am  St Brigid’s N.S. Choir

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS  Sinead, Amber & Sean Wilson

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.
The people reply:

May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands
For the praise and glory of his name,
For our good
And the good of all his holy church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray,
the oblations of your people
(and of those you have brought to new birth),
that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism,
they may attain unending happiness.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.

The Bishop continues with the Preface………

Holy, Holy, Holy  Lead by the Folk Group
ACCLAMATION

He is Lord Lead by the Parish Choir

The Bishop continues with the Consecration………

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen Lead by the Family Group

COMMUNION RITE

The Lord’s Prayer
At the Saviour’s command
and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

Together with the people, he continues:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are Yours
now and for ever.

SIGN OF PEACE

Shalom Lead by St Brigid’s N.S. Choir

Lamb of God…..

COMMUNION HYMNS

Only In God The Parish Choir
One Bread, One Body The Folk Group
REFLECTION HYMNS
May the Lord Bless You & Keep You  St Brigid’s N.S. Choir
Here We Are  The Family Group & Children

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WORDS OF THANKS  Fr. Maurice

CONCLUDING NOTICES  Mel Gilligan

CONCLUDING RITE

RECESSIONAL HYMN
Be Not Afraid  Lead by the Parish Choir

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety, though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words to foreign men and they will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

Be not afraid. I go before you always.
Come follow me, And I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the pow’r of hell and death is at your side,
Know that I am with you through it all.

Be not afraid. I go before you always.
Come follow me, And I will give you rest.

Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked men insult and hate you all because of me, blessed, blessed are you!

Be not afraid. I go before you always.
Come follow me, And I will give you rest.
The Road of Life ..........

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But later when I met Christ, it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Christ was in the back helping me to pedal.

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Author Unknown
Our Lady Mother of the Church, Castleknock