

Morning Prayer:

Tullow, Bishop Daniel Delany and the Patrician Brothers



Bishop Daniel Delany

Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, 1787 - 1814

Introduction to Bishop Delany, Tullow & the Patrician Brothers



During morning Mass on February 2, 1808 Bishop Daniel Delany gathered four men at Tullow in the remote diocese of Kildare-Leighlin in Ireland to form the first community of the Brothers of St Patrick.

They were a school master who had worked in Tullow for a number of years and three local tradesmen and labourers, one of whom had some experience with the Trappist monks in England. They supported Bishop Delany in his wish to provide religious, moral and literacy education to children at a time when British penal code prohibited the public expression of the Catholic faith and when Ireland was gripped by general poverty and lawlessness.

The group of men quickly grew to 12. However, this project soon failed and the brothers were sent to work “to thresh corn, dig potatoes or to quarry stones”. The plight of the brothers became so desperate that Bishop Delany offered the freedom to disband, “but they decided to cling together” to continue Bishop Delany’s purposes for the Brothers of St Patrick. This is, to lead each of the brothers to follow Christ; to help in the work of the parish; to be catechists for the Sunday schools; to provide religious, moral and literacy education for the children in day schools.

On February 2, 1810, four brothers established a comb making, weaving and teaching school in Mountrath whilst another four brothers remained at Tullow.

Nearing his death, Bishop Delany asked both the Patrician Brothers and Brigidine Sisters (which had been founded on February 1, 1807) “to love God and live together in peace and charity.” Both communities remained under Bishop Delany’s care until his death on July 9, 1814.

Today, the Patrician Brothers have placed greater emphasis on their community living by reasserting Bishop Delany’s drive ‘to lead one another to follow Christ more closely’.

In recent congregational gatherings a commitment to vibrant community living as well as to address some of the critical needs of society have been undertaken.

Education is the main means in which the Brothers advertise their love of Christ to people. However, a number of Brothers are involved in chaplaincy ministry, pastoral ministry and adult education. In all ministries in which they are involved, the Brothers are guided by St Patrick’s spirit to find “Christ in the heart of all people.”



Opening Prayer:

All: Lord Jesus, I give my hands to do your work;
I give my feet to go your way.
I give my eyes to see as you do;
I give my tongue to speak your words.
I give you my mind that I may think of you, I give you my
spirit that I may live in you.
Above all
I give you my heart that I may totally love your Father and
all humankind.
I give you my whole self so that all that I do
I do for you and your glory.
Amen

Psalm (127):

Ant: If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do the builders toil.

If the LORD had not been on our side let Israel say
If the LORD had not been on our side when men attacked us,

When their anger flared against us, they would have swallowed us alive;

The flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us,
The raging waters would have swept us away.

Praise be to the LORD, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.
We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare;
the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Glory be to the Father.....

Ant: If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do the builders toil.



Reader 1:

In August 1814 a local Irish magazine reported on Bishop Delany's death and funeral:

Died on the 9th July. The Right Rev. Dr. Delany, titular Bishop of the united Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. For thirty years he performed his pastoral duty with such pious care and anxious solicitude for the regulation of his diocese and the salvation of his flock, so near did he approach to the example of the Redeemer, that morality wept and piety swooned away at his tomb. His remains were attended to the grave by the Archbishop and seventy priests, together with the immense concourse of upwards five thousand persons overwhelmed with the most afflicting and poignant grief for the irreparable loss of so beloved, pious, and exemplary a Prelate.



Reader 1: Let us pray together.

All: Dear Jesus,
like Bishop Daniel Delany
help us to believe that you are always with us
no matter how far we may stray because of our selfishness.
May we see you in those about us
helping us then to realise that what we say and do to others
we do to you.
Jesus, help us to celebrate your presence with us;
help us to be you to our families, our friends, our colleagues, students, and to the
stranger.
Amen.

Reader 2:

Bishop Delany was very highly thought of by the people of his diocese, his priests, and his fellow bishops. One of the most famous Irish bishops is Bishop James Doyle, he knew Bishop Delany personally and said of him soon after Bishop Delany's death:

I have seldom seen a figure so striking. I listened to him for about an hour, left him with regret and did not cease to think of him all the way home.

Let us now listen to what was written about him on his tombstone, in the Tullow Parish Church, this written by one of the priests of his diocese in 1814.

Reader 2:

A man excelling in piety, faith, zeal and love of religion. An angel in appearance, a pastor in mind and heart, a priest and minister throughout his life. By his humility, gentleness and charm he won the hearts of all.

In his zeal for God's glory he raised this church, erected and endowed the adjoining convent. In his home town of Mountrath he constructed a second magnificent temple. Additionally, he established and funded confraternities for the instruction of the children of the poor. Several other sacred monuments he leaves behind as testimony to a life spent in good works.

Beloved of his clergy and flock, to the deep sorrow and ineffable grief of both he passed from this life on the 9th day of July in the year of our Lord, 1814, the sixty-seventh of his age and thirty-first of his episcopate. Never to be sufficiently bewailed in accordance with his merits he awaits the resurrection of the body.

May he rest in peace.

Reader 2: Let us pray together.

All: Lord God,
We thank you for the gift of Bishop Delany.
We pray that you give us his faith, courage, and dedication,
so that we too may be instruments of your peace,
so that we too may spread the good news of your love and redemption.
Help us to share the joy of your love.
Amen.



Reader 3:

Following are spiritual sayings attributed to Bishop Delany. Two sayings will be read together, there will be a short pause, the leader will say "And so we proclaim" and we all respond together "Our help is in the name of the Lord."

Reader 3:

~ Love God and live together in peace and charity.
~ The Cross is the sure way to find Christ.

(Pause) And so we proclaim **All:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Reader 3:

~ The force of love will convert the hard wood of the Cross into a bed of roses.
~ Do everything in a spirit of holy love and you will not find your hands empty at journey's end.

(Pause) And so we proclaim **All:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Reader 3:

~ It is not, my dear children, God's consolations but God himself you should seek.

~ What you are those who come after you will be: the fountain should itself be pure in order to have the stream pure.

(Pause) And so we proclaim **All:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Reader 4:

~ From every seed sown and cultivated by pure love we shall be sure to reap a harvest of endless glory.

~ Never entertain yourself or others in speaking of another's faults or failings. You should be no less careful to draw a veil over these than if they actually belonged to yourself.

(Pause) And so we proclaim **All:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Reader 4:

~ For you holiness will not consist in doing great actions, but in doing your least actions with great purity of intention and a genuine desire to please God.

~ By performing the ordinary duties of your day well you will perfect yourself, and your day will be full of merit and good works.

(Pause) And so we proclaim **All:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Reader 4:

~ We cannot possibly stand still in the career of Christian virtue. Not to advance on this road is to recede. Not to go up against the torrent is to be carried down by it. Labour, therefore, with might and main and in full assurance of the Divine assistance, to be daily and hourly advancing in this blessed race.

(Pause) And so we proclaim **All:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.



Maxims attributed to
Bishop Delany

Reader 4: St Patrick **All:** Pray for us.

Reader 4: Bishop Delany **All:** Present our prayers to God our Father.

Reader 4: Jesus our brother **All:** Allow us always to trust in you.

Reader 5:

There were so many hardships in the life of Bishop Daniel Delany.

His father and younger brother died when Daniel was just a boy.

He had to spend fourteen years away from home and family to study in France.

There was always the threat of violence and imprisonment by the British.

He watched his friend Fr Murphy savagely executed.

His many efforts to set up schools and colleges were frustrated by unjust British laws. And more.

But he always prayed about these challenges.

He always placed his trust in God. And in the end, with God at his side, he won.

We here today, in Tullow, are a testimony to that.

A Prayer in Honour of Bishop Delany:



Lord God, we thank you for Bishop Delany.

Through him you have given us, his spiritual brothers and sisters, a wonderful example of Christian living.

We pray you, through the intercession of Bishop Delany, to grant us an increase of faith, courage, and dedication, to labour unceasingly for the spread of your Kingdom on earth.

May our lives bear witness to the faith we profess by our special devotion to you in the most Blessed Sacrament as exemplified in Bishop Delany.

Help us to serve you as he did, sharing the joy of your love with those who come into our lives in our Christian ministry.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen



Morning Prayer Booklet
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