

Holy Family Parish, Askea

26th April 2020 Vol 29 No 24

Third Sunday of Easter

Fr. Tom Little - 91-31559

Fr Tommy Dillon - 91-64882

Sr. Joan Pierse 91-42565

Emergency Priest on Duty

087 2588118

Askea Parish Community

Centre Phone 91-42565

087 1269709

Mass Times:

Askea 9.30am Mon-Fri;

Sat 7pm; Sun 9am,

10.30am

& 12 Noon.

Bennekerry Sun 11.30am;

Tinryland Tues 9.30am &

Sunday 10am

Deadline for items for

Newsletter is 5pm on

Wednesday by phone to

9142565 or email to

office@askeaparish.ie

Website: www.askeaparish.ie

In the breaking of bread....

Today's Gospel highlights community. The story hinges around one sentence: 'their eyes were opened and they recognised him.'

In sharing a meal, the disciples recognised Jesus, but they had already welcomed this stranger as a friend.

As Christians, we see Jesus in the stranger on the road, in community, and in the breaking of bread. While it is important to offer as much practical help as we can, we must also speak out against injustice and anything that damages the dignity of the most vulnerable in our society.

Keeping in Touch

St Mary's Parish, Bennekerry

Sunday 26th April 2020

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St Mary's Parish, Bennekerry

Fr Tom Little PP - Ph 059 9131559. Fr Tommy Dillon PE 0599142565

Newsletter Items - 059 9143881. **Deadline for News items: - 9pm Wednesdays**

Emergency Number for the Priest on Duty 087 2588118.

Parish Office - 059 9142565 087 - 1269709.

Website: www.askeaparish.ie; email: office@askeaparish.ie

Anniversaries 26th April 2020

James Mahon, Longwood, Co Meath & Bennekerry

John & Mary Mahon, Bennekerry

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

Church Collections

In response to the many queries we have received about Church collections we are listing the parish account details below. If you are making a donation directly to the parish through the Bank please put your name and address in the reference box. You can also hold on to your donation envelope and return it to the Church when things get back to normal. Your support for the Parish is greatly appreciated.

Bank Name and Address: AIB Bank, Tullow Street, Carlow

Name of Account: Bennekerry Parish. BIC AIBKIE2D

IBAN: IE25AIBK93310401334017

Pope Francis has asked that each family pray the Rosary at home especially during the month of May. He suggests that these prayers are prayed after the Rosary.

FIRST PRAYER

O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus' suffering,
and persevered in your faith.
"Protectress of the Roman people",
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
joy and celebration may return
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering,
and burdened himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection.
Amen.

*We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

SECOND PRAYER

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation,
when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety,
we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother,
and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us
amid this coronavirus pandemic.
Comfort those who are distraught
and mourn their loved ones who have died,
and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply.
Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who
are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the
disease, cannot be close to them.
Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the
future and the consequences for the economy and
employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father
of mercies, that this great suffering may end
and that hope and peace may dawn anew.
Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana,
so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted,
and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers
who are on the frontline of this emergency,
and are risking their lives to save others.
Support their heroic effort and grant them strength,
generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day,
and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the
Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.
Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women
engaged in scientific research,

that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need.

Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves,
O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

An Easter People

When my mother brought home wallpaper and paint, it meant that we were preparing for Easter. We didn't ever prepare for Christmas the way we prepared for Easter. There was always a room to be decorated and curtains to be taken down, hand-washed and pressed. We were regularly reminded of her youth, when the walls of her homeplace were 'whitewashed and the hedges clipped.' One might suggest that Mammy was doing the spring cleaning: however, she very openly attributed any and all of her work to the risen Jesus. As children, Easter was a big event in our lives.

In my own family, there is a similar sense of preparation. Easter and the hope it embodies carries us forward as well as making sense of our past. Once, on the way to Holy Thursday Mass, our daughter was chatting to me about a primary school project entitled 'Saint John Paul II's visit to Ireland.' I told her about how amazing it was to be in the Pope's presence, the emotion I had experienced when the pope mobile drove past us in the Phoenix park, and how the Pope's visit had been such a huge national event. Later, during the Mass, she leaned over to me and enquired: 'Did Jesus ever visit Ireland?' 'Yes', I replied, 'He visits all the time, and He is about to arrive on the altar right now; when you hear the bells ringing, you will know He is here.' I must admit tears sprung to my eyes when I saw her wide-eyed with wonder as the bells rang out louder and longer for the Holy Thursday Gloria.

Easter is a blessed and holy time for any family. The brighter evenings and rising temperature herald hope. Lambs and snowdrops announce renewal. For people of faith there is so much more. Jesus broke through the barriers of sin and death. Jesus is present to everyone, not just the people who follow Him and celebrate Him. Easter is a time of rejoicing and jubilation at the unconditional love poured out for all.

The Easter Triduum is an even more intensive time of preparation, and brings Lent to its climax. Pope John Paul II explained: 'By the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Church was born and set out upon the pathways of the world, yet a decisive moment in her taking shape was certainly the institution of the Eucharist in the Upper room. Her foundation and wellspring is the whole Triduum..... but this is as it were gathered up, foreshadowed and

“concentrated” forever in the gift of the Eucharist.’ The last supper shared in the upper room is the ‘source and summit’ of the Church. The individual liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil mark not isolated events, but a single blessed event. The Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday does not end with a final blessing; rather, that blessing is given at the conclusion of the Easter Vigil.

The Easter Triduum is what I can only describe as an annual retreat. Our own family have prayed through primary school playground squabbles, adolescent angst and anger, young adulthood decisions and all that goes on in between. Most of all, we have prayed with and for each other. Each part of the Easter Triduum offers the opportunity to be blessed and broken in equal amounts.

With Holy Thursday comes the initiation of the sacrament of the Eucharist, a willing to the soul to ‘stay awake’ and prepare for what has to come. Good Friday breaks the human heart open with sadness and loss, until the Easter Vigil showers hope with the joy of the Risen Lord.

A cherished memory is of Oisín ringing the bells for the entire and beautifully sun Gloria during an Easter Vigil in Trim. This precious ritual and symbolic action filled my heart with a searing love of the Lord, along with endless gratitude for the faith that was gifted to me. In those moments, I experience gratitude for our son, my parents, our community, and for the love of God offered through faith. Such powerful liturgy! Such a joy to look forward to!

In 1976, Dr SM Lockridge, a Baptist pastor, was asked to describe Jesus. He replied that Jesus was hi ‘King’. He then asked to describe hi ‘King’. A very famous explanation unfolded that included the following:

‘.....Well, the Pharisees couldn’t stand Him,

But they found out they couldn’t stop Him.

Pilate couldn’t find and fault in Him.

Death couldn’t handle Him

And the grave couldn’t hold Him.

That’s my King.....”

Dr Orla Walsh – Intercom Magazine

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Name of Account: Askea Parish. BIC BOFIE2D

IBAN: IE78BOFI90653118867569

Contact Details for the Parish Office

You can contact the Parish Office to book Anniversaries at 087 1269709.

Helpdesk Phone Line

Carlow County Council through the 'Carlow Covid-19 Community Response Forum' has established a helpdesk that will respond to the needs of the vulnerable members of our community by linking State agencies, the community and voluntary sectors to vulnerable people's needs. Freephone in confidence 1800-814-300 from 8am – 8pm Monday to Sunday or Email:covidsupport@carlowcoco.ie

One important measure in preventing the spread of Covid-19 is cocooning. This is a measure to protect people who are over 70 years of age or those who are extremely medically vulnerable not leaving your house.

Freephone **1800-814-300 to arrange shopping and / or pharmacy deliveries.**

An Act of Spiritual Communion

During this time although we cannot be present at Mass to receive Communion we can receive Jesus spiritually.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there

and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.