

Holy Family Parish, Askea

3rd May 2020 Vol 29 No 25

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Fr. Tom Little - 91-31559

Fr Tommy Dillon - 91-
64882

Sr. Joan Pierse 91-42565

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Emergency Priest on Duty

087 2588118

.....
Askea Parish Community

Centre Phone 91-42565

087 1269709

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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

Good Shepherd Sunday

Day of Prayer for Vocations

What kind of shepherd is Christ?
He is the one who has come
'so that we may have life
and have it to the full.'
Let us leave aside any sense
that Christian discipleship
is some kind of necessary burden.

It is the way to life
- fullness of life.

Keeping in Touch

St Mary's Parish, Bennekerry

Sunday 3rd May 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 3rd May 2020

Seán Byrne, Burrin View, 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

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

Name of Account: Bennekerry Parish. BIC AIBKIE2D

IBAN: IE25AIBK93310401334017

Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Faithful for the Month of May 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

FRANCIS

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.

**They have come that they may have life
and have it abundantly.**

On this fourth Sunday of Easter we hear the beginning of the Good Shepherd discourse from John's Gospel. Jesus portrays himself as a shepherd. And what is the duty of this shepherd? To protect his flock, to lead the flock, to know the flock. There is a beautiful line in this passage which reads: 'the sheep follow him because they know his voice.' What does it mean, to know the voice of Jesus? It is to be in deep relationship with Him, to know His voice above the 'noise' of the world around us. In order to know someone, we have to spend time with them, being aware of their presence, talking to them, listening, considering them friend and beloved. So, in today's Gospel we are invited into a deep relationship with the Shepherd; invited to listen out for his voice, a voice that brings peace, not discomfort.

As I write this, our country is dealing with the Coronavirus outbreak. With social distancing, schools and colleges closed, it is a frightening time for many people. As Christ is shepherd to us, we are also called to be shepherds to others. There is a lot of hysteria online but there are also thoughtful suggestions for people, such as: take this time to write a letter to someone you care about; think of three things you love about someone and text it to them; check in on neighbours who might be vulnerable; each church undertake an audit of all the vulnerable people they know and share out the responsibility to phone them each day; practise the Christian discipline of sharing food; offer help and reassurance to others; don't demonise anyone or any group. As followers of the Good Shepherd, may we live these suggestions, not just in times of crisis, but in all times so that all may 'have life and have it abundantly.'

Jane Mellett, Intercom Magazine

Announcement Triduum of preparation for Pentecost

Bishop Denis and the Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation are delighted to announce three evenings of preparation for the Feast of Pentecost.

Faith, Hope and Love - Living Pentecost Today.

Three evenings of prayer, music and reflection

Live streamed from a different church in the diocese each night at 7:30 pm on Wed 27/05, Thurs 28/05 & Fri 29/05

concluding with Vigil Mass for Pentecost Sunday live from Carlow Cathedral, led by Bishop Denis. More details to follow.

Resources for Praying with and Reflecting on the Daily Readings

The first and primary resource is, naturally, the readings themselves. If you don't have a Daily Missal, you will find the readings for the Mass of the Day on the Askea Parish website.

Sacredspace.ie This Irish based website and app from the Jesuits offers a guided daily prayer based on the scriptures of the day. *Living Space* is the area of the Sacred Space website where you will find commentaries on the daily and Sunday scripture readings.

Pray as you go.org Another Jesuit website and app based in England. Again it offers the readings of the day with reflections and music (audio available), as well as a suite of other prayer resources and online retreats for different age groups.

Wordonfire.org offers short daily Gospel reflections from Bishop Robert Barron.

ncronline.org , the website of the national Catholic Reporter in the US, offers a daily column, *Pencil Preaching*, with a commentary on the readings each day. Like the Word On Fire reflection, you can sign up to receive this each day.

The Daily Bread of the Word of God

In a time when we cannot receive the physical nourishment of Eucharist, it is good to remember that in our Catholic tradition we believe that we are also fed and nourished by the Word of God in the Scriptures.

The Missal of the Mass reminds us that "when the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his own word, proclaims the Gospel"

Pope Benedict XVI wrote: 'Indeed, the word which we proclaim and accept is the Word made flesh (cf. Jn 1:14); it is inseparably linked to Christ's person and the sacramental mode of his continued presence in our midst. Christ does not speak in the past, but in the present...'

This can be a tremendous comfort to us in these days. It can also serve as an invitation to us to turn once more to the scriptures. Here we can come to know and meet Christ who is with us always, speaking to us, feeding us with his word and present with us in every moment.

Free Access to newspapers and magazines through Carlow Libraries

More & more are taking the opportunity to access the free online services at Carlow Libraries whilst at home. Find info on how to sign up at www.carlowlibraries.ie The benefit of online access to library services is evident in these difficult times. Check out all services on offer. You'll be happily surprised at the range available.

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Bishop to lead live streamed prayer service for Leaving Cert

students Bishop Denis will lead a prayer service for Leaving Cert students in Holy Family Church, Askea at 7 pm on Thursday, May 21. Students from across the diocese will be able to virtually join together to be supported and uplifted through music, prayer and reflections. A special blessing for students will be given by Bishop Denis during the liturgy. Access to the prayer service will be through a variety of platforms, including Facebook and webcam. More details to follow.

KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN HOUSEHOLDS INVITED TO UNITE WITH OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN AND CREATE A MAY ALTAR IN THE HOME

Children preparing for First Holy Communion across the diocese have been invited to create a May altar in their home and to pray the Joyful Mysteries with their family. This invitation is extended to the whole of the Kandle family. Why not set aside a space in your home to place a statue or image of Mary. You might like to include flowers, candles, rosary beads... The next steps is to set aside a time to pray the Rosary each day, either alone or with other members of your household. Send us a photo! We would love to receive photos of your May altar to share with the rest of the Kandle family. Images can be sent to our @KANDLEi Facebook page.

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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.