

Holy Family Parish, Askea

19th April 2020 Vol 29 No 23

Divine Mercy Sunday

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

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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

In today's Gospel we meet a doubter, Thomas. As one of Jesus' disciples, he has been through the mill. Their great friend and teacher, Jesus, the one who promised them the world, has been brutally killed, his awful suffering is fresh in their minds. Their own lives are in danger, so they are lying low. It is a time of despair, so it is little wonder that he does not dare to believe the other disciples when they say they have seen the Lord. When death and despair are all around, we can be like Thomas. We are all at sea, afraid of what the future will bring.

Jesus greets his disciples with simple blessing: 'Peace be with you.' In their fear and despair, he comes and stands among them, calming their troubled hearts. The Resurrection of Jesus shows us there is hope. We are called not only to experience the risen Jesus, but to be people of the Resurrection. Where there is darkness, Jesus calls us to be people of light.

Triona Doherty – Intercom Magazine

Keeping in Touch

St Mary's Parish, Bennekerry

Sunday 19th April 2020

Divine Mercy Sunday

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Triona Doherty – Intercom Magazine

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 19th April 2020

Kathleen Sullivan, Bennekerry

William Fitzpatrick, Ballylennon & Waterford

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.

Trócaire Boxes

We ask you to continue to make your donation to the work of Trócaire.

We will announce arrangements for collecting Trócaire Boxes later.

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

Free Stress Control Online

Join the free Stress Control Online programme to learn new skills and mind your mental health. For more information contact

www.stresscontrol.org

Controlling your thoughts. - This free Stress Control Online programme starts on Monday 20th April with the first show at 2pm and repeat at 8.30pm.

www.stresscontrol.org

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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Bank Name and Address: Bank of Ireland, Shamrock Plaza, Carlow

Name of Account: Askea Parish. BIC BOFIE2D

IBAN: IE78BOFI90653118867569

Get Connected – Catholics #BeKind online

#BeKind – it seems the simplest and most obvious of all the life choices we can make for ourselves. It's a common social media hash tag these days, and while it is a noble message, it's sad to live in a world where we have to remind ourselves to be kind online and in real life. Kindness should be our default.

Research shows that being kind to others can, among other benefits, make not only the recipients of said kindness happier, but also provide those issuing such kindness a mood boost. It's little wonder then that random acts of kindness have become an increasingly meaningful currency online and offline. The fact is, people love doing them, love receiving them, and even love just seeing others lend a helping hand. Trolling, key board warriors, anonymous commentators being mean for the sake of it, children being bullied, celebrities being trolled and bullied off social media, people of different views being shouted down online.....and all this harassment translating from online to real life. How has it all come to this?

What can we do as people of God, as the faithful, as Church in the online spaces, to spread kindness and love, to be a balm?

The answer: #BeKind

Social media sites in particular offer us an amazing opportunity to share the love and joy of the Gospel. They also offer us opportunities to converse with and to learn from people of different walks of life, of different cultures and belief systems. As people of faith, we should be understanding and empathic, and be kind to others even if we don't fully understand their perspective. We may not always agree, but if we respond with negativity and nastiness, we are taking the conversation down a direction it can be difficult to come back from. We also need to think about the example we are giving to the next generation.

There are five simple things we can do as people of faith in the online spaces:

1. Positivity: Post positive messages, including random acts of kindness.
2. Honesty and Transparency: Make sure you have your facts right and are transparent about who you are online.
3. Tone: Think about the tone you use. Make sure you are not attempting to pass off offensive comments through attempts at humour. Do not sound off online. Ask yourself if you would be happy for the people you love to read what you are posting online.

4. Understand social media: Remember that while social media is an exciting forum and presents opportunities, the value of face-to-face relationships should never be forgotten.

5. Be Kind: Make kindness and charity your default.

Social media offers exciting possibilities to share the Gospel and to interact with people we might not otherwise connect with. Social media also takes us into territory where we need to think carefully. It is interactive, conversational and open-ended, and happens in a public space. As Christians, the same principles that guide our offline conversations should apply to those that take place online. Interacting through online media should not change our understanding of confidentiality, responsibility and Christian witness.

In a recent World Communications Day message, Pope Francis said that forming strong communities, even online, requires people who are ‘animated by feelings of trust;’ and are pursuing a common objective. ‘The community as a network of solidarity requires mutual listening and dialogue based on the responsible use of language.’

And Pope Francis cautioned that while social media can promote ‘encounter’, they also can ‘increase self-isolation’, and risk to which young people are particularly vulnerable.

Opposing cyber bullying, isolation and division, the Pope said that Christians are called to use online resources ‘to invest in relationships and to affirm the interpersonal nature of our humanity including in and through the network.’

What is more, Pope Francis said that when online, ‘we Christians are called to manifest that communion which marks our identity as believers. Faith itself, in fact, is a relationship, an encounter, and under the impetus of God’s love, we can communicate, welcome and understand the gift of the other and respond to it.’

Ms Brenda Drumm – Intercom Magazine

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.