

Holy Family Parish, Askea

29th March 2020 Vol 29 No 20

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

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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

It is not the time
of your judgement,
but of our judgement:
a time to choose
what matters
and what passes away,
a time to separate
what is necessary
from what is not.

It is a time
to get our lives
back on track
with regard to you, Lord,
and to others.

Pope Francis

Keeping in Touch

St Mary's Parish, Bennekerry

Sunday 29th March 2020

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Pope Francis

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 29th March 2020

Timmy O'Keeffe, Palatine

John Browne, Ballinacarrig

Paddy Bermingham, Kernanstown

Jimmy (The Daw) Nolan, Kernanstown

John O'Neill, Bennekerry

Jim Woods, 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.

Trócaire Boxes

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

We will announce arrangements for collecting Trócaire Boxes in next week's newsletter.

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

Kildare & Leighlin Weekly Lotto

K & L Lotto Suspension

Unfortunately in order to comply fully with the coronavirus restrictions and social distancing this is the last K & L Lotto draw until further notice. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

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

Name of Account: Askea Parish. BIC BOFIIIE2D

IBAN: IE78BOFI90653118867569

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

During Holy Week we usually hold a Penitential Service. However, in the current climate this is no longer possible. Some of the prayers usually recited during the Sacrament of Reconciliation are listed here below:

Act of Sorrow

O my God, I thank you for loving me.
I am sorry for all my sins,
for not loving others and not loving you.
Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen.

Prayer for Forgiveness

O my God, help me to remember the times
when I didn't live as Jesus asked me to.
Help me to be sorry and to try again. Amen.

The Confiteor

I confess to almighty God.
And to you, my brothers and sisters,
That I greatly sinned
In my thoughts and in my words,
In what I have done and in what I have failed to do;
Through my fault, through my fault
Through my most grievous fault;
Therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin,
All the angels and saints,
And you my brothers and sisters
To pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen

Prayer after Forgiveness

O my God thank you for forgiving me.
Help me to love others.
Help me to live as Jesus asked me to. Amen.

Pope Francis delivered an extraordinary blessing “To the City and to the World” to pray for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic

Pope Francis held the special Urbi et Orbi blessing on Friday from the steps of St. Peter’s Basilica. Usually a colourful event reserved only for Christmas Day and Easter Sunday, this extraordinary blessing was held in keeping with the gravity of the current global situation, as more than half of the world’s population is confined to their homes to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Standing in a deserted St. Peter’s Square with a steady rain falling, Pope Francis spoke to the world through all the means of modern communication: Facebook, YouTube, TV, and radio.

Symbols of faith He prayed for the world at this critical juncture in the presence of two images that have accompanied the people of Rome for centuries: the ancient icon of Mary *Salus Populi Romani*— usually housed in the Basilica of St. Mary Major — and the miraculous crucifix kept in the church of San Marcello on the city’s Via del Corso.

Evening meditation: But first, Pope Francis offered a meditation on the crisis facing the world, reflecting on a passage from the Gospel of Mark (4:35-41).

“For weeks now it has been evening,” said the Pope. “Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice it in people’s gestures, their glances give them away.” In this situation, he said, we feel afraid and lost, like the disciples whose boat was in danger of sinking while Jesus slept at the stern.

All in the same boat The Covid-19 pandemic has reminded us that we are all on the same boat, said Pope Francis, and so we call out to Jesus. The disciples ask Him, “Teacher, do you not care if we perish?” The Pope said these words would have shaken Jesus, “because He, more than anyone, cares about us.”

The storm, said the Pope, exposes “our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules” and lays bare “all those attempts to anesthetize ourselves”.

What is revealed, he said, is “our belonging as brothers and sisters”, our common humanity. “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”

Pope Francis then picked up the thread of Jesus’ question: “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” He said we have all gone ahead “at breakneck speed”, ignoring the wars, injustice, and cries of the poor and our ailing planet. “We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick.”

In our stormy sea, we now cry out: “Wake up, Lord!”

Now is the time of choosing Really, said Pope Francis, it is Jesus calling out to us to be converted, calling us to faith.

“You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a *time of choosing*,” he said.

Now is not the time of God’s judgment, but of our own: “a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not.” The Pope said we can draw lessons from the many people who – even though fearful – have reacted by giving their lives, including medical personnel, supermarket clerks, cleaners, priests, police officers, and volunteers. This, he said, “is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial.”

Stripped of our self-sufficiency

Pope Francis said faith begins “when we realize we are in need of salvation” and are not self-sufficient. If we turn to Jesus and hand Him our fears, said the Pope, He will conquer them. “Because this is God’s strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.”

So God asks us now, in the midst of the tempest, “to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering.”

His cross is our hope Jesus’ cross, said Pope Francis, is the anchor that has saved us, the rudder that has redeemed us, and our hope, because “by His cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from His redeeming love.” “In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things,” he said, “let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: He is risen and is living by our side.” So we embrace His cross in the hardships of the present time, and make room in our hearts “for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring.” “Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.”

Turning to the Lord Concluding his meditation, Pope Francis entrusted us all to the Lord, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that our faith might not waiver in this time of crisis.

“Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter’s rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: ‘Do not be afraid’ (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, ‘cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us’ (cf. 1Pet 5:7).”