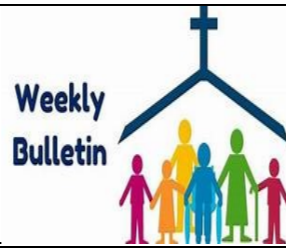




PARISH OF THE HOLY REDEEMER, DUNDALK
 24TH MAY 2020
 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
 A Parish in the 'Dun Dealgan' Pastoral Area



THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

In celebrating the Feast of the Ascension today we are recalling the last physical manifestation of Jesus to His disciples after His Resurrection. It would be unthinkable that the appearances of Jesus up to this point should grow fewer and fewer until they just stopped. That would have wrecked the faith of any believer. Rather there had to come a day when the Jesus of earth finally became the Christ of Heaven and that is what we actually celebrate today. But Jesus' Ascension into Heaven not only assures us that not only have we now someone in Heaven sitting at God's right hand, who will intercede for us but we also receive a great promise.

One of the most common Gospel passages proclaimed at a funeral comes from St. Matthew, which includes the line **I am going to prepare a place for you so that where I am you may be too.** And through today's feast we see those words being fulfilled.

Jesus ascended into Heaven, that is where He is now, which means to die in faith is not to go out into the darkness of nothing as it were but to go to Him. In other words this feast gives us the promise of the destiny that awaits us. It spells out in no uncertain terms that our true homeland is Heaven. He died for us, rose for us, ascended for us, so that one day we could be with Him forever. In a sense He blazed a trail for us to follow, as the words in the opening prayer of today's Mass put it **where the Head has gone before us in glory, the Body is called to follow in Hope,** once our earthly journey is over. Yet our entry into Heaven does not come without a price and that is the huge challenge laid down for us by this feast. In other words our life in Heaven is guaranteed but only if we do our part. And our part as Jesus commanded us is to be his witnesses, His ambassadors in this world. But what kind of witnesses or ambassadors do we really make? That is something only each one of us can truthfully answer for ourselves. Our hope one day to enter into Heaven, yet to live now running contrary to everything that Christ stands for does not make sense. Our guarantee of Heaven, like that of any other guarantee depends on our following the rules, and for us, those rules are the rules of Christ.

The Feast of the Ascension not only reveals to us the splendid destiny that awaits us but also what we must do to attain that destiny. Be active in sharing and spreading His faith and by obeying all He commanded us. And so through this feast may we renew our witness to Christ and seek the help, strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit in this, so that we may truly gain our dwelling place in Heaven, because what we sow now is what we will harvest on our day of Ascension.

REFLECTION

We are born in exile and die there too. As soon as we set sail on the great voyage of life, we begin our return. We spend our lives dreaming of a homeland we have never seen. Like homing birds that are released in a strange country, and know no rest until they return home, so it is with us. When we die, we do not so much go to God as return to him. You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts will never rest until they rest in you.

OUR CHURCH Will remain open for solitary personal prayer each morning from 9.30am-12.30pm. Please respect social distancing.

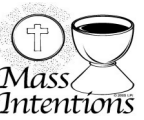
ANNIVERSARY MASSES All Anniversary Masses which have been booked are still being celebrated by Fr. Sheehan and Fr. Shajan in private.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT:

“Conscious of our brokenness and moved by the Spirit of Compassion, we the Holy Redeemer Parish Pastoral Council, strive to be messengers of God's healing and love in today's world and to encourage and support all parishioners to bear witness to the Gospel of Christ.”

Anniversary and remembrance Masses

Sunday	24th May	11.30am	Av	John (Jack) Gray
		6.00pm	Av's	May, Harry & Seamus Hearty.
Monday	25th May	10.00am	Av	Frank Murray.
Saturday	30th May	10.00am	Av	Teresa Kieran.
Sunday	31st May	10.00am	Av's	George, Geraldine & Andrew Duffy.



WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED Paul Maddy, Marian Park. Agnes Whelan, Woodview Park. Patricia Byrne (née Carroll) Marian Park. Margaret (Peggy) McCormack, Marian Park Liam Gerard White, Bay Estate. Patrick (Paddy) McIntyre, Mount Avenue.



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.

TROCAIRE BOXES Trócaire are appealing to you to return your Lenten donation. Simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate in the following ways: 1. Online at www.trocaire.org 2. By phone: 1850 408 408 (ROI) or 0800 912 1200 (NI) 3. By post to Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, or Trócaire, 10 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI) 4. To the Parish office or Church Sacristy.

The Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock will be celebrated on May 31st, Pentecost Sunday. This year due to COVID-19 virus, the Pilgrimage will be celebrated online, from Knock Shrine beginning at 2.30pm, with the recitation of the Rosary, a video greeting from the Archbishop at 2.55pm and the celebration of the Pilgrimage Mass at 3pm. To help prepare for our Pilgrimage an online Novena will be broadcast daily at 12.00 noon on the Diocesan website and Facebook page from nine different shrines and grottoes of Our Lady in the Archdiocese (see list below:-

Saturday May 23 rd	1 st Day of the Novena	Armagh Cathedral
Sunday May 24 th	2 nd Day of the Novena	Cooley Parish
Monday May 25 th	3 rd Day of the Novena	Edendork
Tuesday May 26 th	4 th Day of the Novena	Derrynoose
Wednesday May 27 th	5 th day of the Novena	Killeeshil
Thursday May 28 th	6 th Day of the Novena	Dundalk
Friday May 29 th	7 th day of the Novena	Coalisland
Saturday May 30 th	8 th day of the Novena	Cuan Mhuire
Sunday May 31 st	9 th Day of the Novena	Drogheda

Prayer against the Coronavirus

Most Glorious Queen of Heaven & Mother of God, You whom the Blessed Trinity has crowned with unequalled glory. You are the Sovereign Queen over all God's Creation. I place myself & all my loved ones under the power, protection & sovereignty of your Crown. Under the protection of your crown & through your immense intercessory power, I ask you to spare us all from the effects of the coronavirus. Dearest Mother & Queen, more Mother than Queen, we, your children in Christ Jesus, ask you to obtain for us an end to the spread of the virus.

Amen.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY STATEMENT: The parish recognises and upholds the rights of all children and vulnerable adults and is committed to ensuring their safety and wellbeing at all times. A copy of the policy is always available for those who wish to view it in the parish office or the Sacristy. The Safeguarding Children representative for Holy Redeemer Parish is Thomas Fox 042-93-34259.



PRIESTS IN PARISH

V Rev Michael Sheehan Adm.
 Rev Shajan Panachickal Michael CC

Tel: 042 9334259 Fax: 042 9332905



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 10am-1pm. 2pm-4pm.
 E-mail: holyredeemerdundalk@gmail.com
www.holyredeemerparish.ie

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