

**PARISH OF TEMPLEMICHAEL & BALLYMACORMACK.**

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**PARISH NEWSLETTER**



**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Sunday 02<sup>nd</sup> May 2021.**

**Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> April.**

8.00am: No Intention.  
10.00am: Winifred Nevin. (A).

**Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April. St. Asicus.**

8.00am: Margaret Mills. (1<sup>st</sup> A)  
10.00am: James Harley. (A)

**Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April. St. Peter Chanel. St. Louis Marie de Montfort.**

8.00am: Mary Davey. (A).  
10.00am: Brendan O'Mahony (1<sup>st</sup> A).

**Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> April. St. Catherine of Siena.**

8.00am: Rita Bunce. (A).  
10.00am: Tommy Carrig. (A)

**Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> April. St. Pius V.**

8.00am: Marjorie (sick) & Marjorie (sick).  
10.00am: Patsy Farrell. (A).

**Saturday, 01<sup>st</sup> May. St. Joseph the Worker.**

8.00am: No Intention.  
10.00am: Áine (for healing)

**Sunday, 02<sup>nd</sup> May. 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER**

6.00pm (*Vigil*): Mary Gannon. John & Emily Gannon. (A).

7.30pm (*Vigil*): Noel & Margaret Kelly. (A)

8.00am: Marion Farrell. (A)

10.00am: Bill & Tess Farrell. (A).

11.30am: *Shared*: 1. Owen & Agnes Conboy. (A).

2. John & Judy Rooney. (A).

1.00pm: Pat Fallon. (1<sup>st</sup> A)

6.00pm: Richie Hanafée. *Months Mind.*

**REST IN PEACE:** We pray at this time for the happy repose of the soul of John Kenny, Ballinalee Road and formerly 16 Main Street, and Sheila Gillespie, New York and formerly Lisbrack, Longford, who were laid to rest during the week. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** We thank you for your contribution to the Offertory Collection for the last week that amounted to €2,575.00. You may drop your envelope through the Presbytery letterbox. Or you may prefer to offer financial support electronically, the following are our banking details: St Mels Cathedral Account. Permanent TSB. BIC: IPBSIE2D; IBAN: IE48IPBS99073152096969

**TRÓCAIRE** – final reminder to return any outstanding boxes or donations to the Presbytery so that all money collected can be forwarded to Trócaire.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, FIRST CONFESSIONS & CONFIRMATION.**

To help all in our Parish prepare for 1<sup>st</sup> Confessions, 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion and Confirmation, a series of videos have been prepared and we are inviting families to watch all 3 videos on iCatholic.ie. The video for 2<sup>nd</sup> class is entitled “*Come to the Table of the Lord*” and the series for Confirmation is entitled “*Come Holy Spirit*”. At this point in time, it is still our intention to celebrate the Sacraments on the dates that have been given to each school. If there is to be a change, we will notify the schools immediately.

**Gospel for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter. John 10:11-18.**

Jesus said:

‘I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.’

## *Good Shepherd Sunday - Vocations Sunday*



The image put before us in today's liturgy for the Fourth Sunday of Easter to describe the person and work of Jesus among his disciples is that of a Shepherd, hence 'Good Shepherd Sunday.' The sight of a shepherd leading his sheep to pasture would be a familiar sight to Jesus because in the Holy Land at that time the shepherd led his sheep rather than driving them. In order to follow someone we have to choose to do so and this involves having confidence in the leader.

In our gospel we are reminded that a person who receives wages to look after sheep does not really care about them. The sheep do not belong to him. He is doing the job just to get money. He cares more about his own safety. So if there is danger, he will leave the sheep. But the shepherd, who owns the sheep, really cares about them. When a wild animal attacks, the shepherd will protect the sheep. The shepherd will risk his own life so that his sheep will be safe.

Jesus used these familiar ideas to show how much he loved people. He loved them so much that he was ready to die instead of them. And this was exactly what he did. He died to rescue us from the results of our sins.

The Greek word 'good' meant also 'beautiful' or 'attractive'. It meant that Jesus had qualities that attracted people to him. This has been true always. Jesus attracts people to himself even now. Sometimes he does this even before they really know anything about him.

When we believe in Jesus, we belong to him. He is like our shepherd. When Jesus referred to 'sheep' in the previous verses, he was talking about the Jews. His audience would already be familiar with this idea from the scriptures. The idea of sheep and Shepherd was often used to illustrate the relationship between God and his people.

But Jesus came also to save the Gentiles. The Gentiles are the 'other sheep.' Jesus will save everybody who believes in him. Our nationality does not matter. All Christians belong to God's family. The church all over the world has one leader ('shepherd') and that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus. And Jesus knew that he had to die as a sacrifice to save people. But this was all part of God's plan. Nobody could kill Jesus unless he allowed it to happen. But he chose to die on our behalf. He gave his life because he wanted to save us. Nobody forced him to do this. He obeyed God because he loved God. But Jesus' resurrection was also part of God's plan. So Jesus knew that he would receive his life again. Today as we pray for vocations, we are mindful of the need for the sheep and the shepherd. Pope Francis has declared that today is world day of Prayer for Vocations to Priesthood, Religious Life, Married life and Single Life. With fewer vocations to priesthood we should make our prayers for vocations to priesthood and religious life extra special. If we have no priest, we have no Eucharist and no Eucharist no church. We pray that the Lord of the harvest will send labourers to his harvest.

### *An Easter Poem*

**This is the visitor who has come to stay,  
This city, the kingdom he will not surrender.  
Cut through the cords of your own cowardice,  
then out once more with him, if eyes can bear  
the blinding sunlight of the third morning;  
take up the quarrel of his undying truth  
in the give and take of the streets, the cut and thrust  
of this tempestuous marriage of earth and heaven  
which human will can never put asunder.**

*John V Taylor, Anglican Theologian*