

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Last Sunday was Mother's Day in many parts of the World (Australia, New Zealand, USA). I know we are a bit late but this poem is a great tribute to Mothers and will 'ring a bell' with many of us.

The History of 'APRONS'



I don't think most kids today know what an apron is. The principle use of Mom's or Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few. It was also because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons used less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, she wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables.

After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, she walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

Send this to those who would know (and love) the story about aprons.

REMEMBER:

Mom's and Grandma's used to set hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool.

Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron.

I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron - but love.

Living in a Virtual World

Parish meetings on Zoom.

Calling all technophobes, meeting on Zoom really isn't as hard as you think. You just need a PC or laptop with a camera on it and a microphone, and an internet connection. It might feel that everyone else is doing something extremely clever, but it just needs a little bit of practice and a good reason for learning it. Catching up with friends and family are good starting points. There's a little video you can watch to help learn the basics. You can find this at the website www.zoom.us.

Cemetery Masses in St. Peter & Paul's Portlaoise and Ratheniska are postponed until restrictions are lifted.



ON LINE DONATIONS

Thank you

There has been a very generous response to our on-line donation facility. We are very grateful for your support at this time.

If you wish to contribute in this way you may do so by visiting our website www.portlaoiseparish.ie and follow the directions to donate. It is a fully secure payment system. We fully appreciate how difficult a time financially this is for so many whose jobs and businesses are effectively locked down.

We are grateful for the support we receive.

Thank You.

CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE:

0818 222 024

If you have concerns or queries about COVID-19
call ALONE's dedicated support line everyday, 8am - 8pm



Priests of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.
Tel: 057 8621142



Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.
Tel: 057 8509998



Fr. David Vard C.C.
Tel: 057 8661139



Fr. Eddie Lalor C.C.
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Tom O'Connor P.E.
(Parish Chaplain)

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
Tel: 057 8621142
**Outside office hours
in emergency only
Tel: 057 8621364**

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can be viewed on our website and our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Mick Daly dlp@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



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Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times)

All Masses and services from the Parish Church
are live streamed www.portlaoiseparish.ie



Secretary: Julie Conroy
Monday to Thursday

11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm
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Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday
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E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP
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Calling Upon the Holy Spirit

Why do we keep rules? Probably to avoid penalties, punishment or adverse consequence! Rules are a necessary evil if we are to live in a well-ordered society. Commandments however are different from rules. Commandments are expressions of how we are to love each other. Perhaps we shouldn't need commandments, perhaps we should know how to love each other

intuitively, but sadly it seems we need a little guidance and a lot of help.

In today's section of the gospel known as the 'Farewell Discourse'. Jesus gives his disciples some final assurances. He tells them that although he will no longer be with them in the flesh, they will always abide in each other's love. The disciples will have plenty of opportunity to express that love by keeping his commandments. In return Jesus will send them, and us, an advocate, a spirit of truth the Holy Spirit.

How easy life would be if Jesus had stayed with us in the flesh. All we would have to do is keep running to him for answers every time we got stuck. There wouldn't be any great long debates on abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, stem cell research or anything else for that matter we would simply send Jesus an email and twiddle our thumbs awaiting the answer. Because he knew that he could not stay with us in person, Jesus left us with the Holy Spirit to take his place but how often do we call on it? We are good at thinking we can get through life under our own steam. Sometimes we can be opinionated, quite sure that we can work out all the answers for ourselves. Today we are reminded that the Holy Spirit is with us from our baptism and ready to be called upon whenever we need direction or revelation. For most of us, that probably means a daily call.

Pope Francis writes new prayers, asks Catholics to pray Rosary in May for end to coronavirus pandemic.

Pope Francis asked Catholics to make a special effort in May to pray the rosary, knowing that by doing so they will be united with believers around the world asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic.



"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," the pope said in a letter addressed to all Catholics and released by the Vatican April 25.

The month of May is traditionally devoted to Mary and many Catholics already are in the habit of praying the rosary at home during the month, he noted. "The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this 'family' aspect, also from a spiritual point of view."

"You can decide according to your own situations" whether to pray individually or in groups, he said, noting that "it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow." Pope Francis wrote two prayers to Mary that can be recited at the end of the rosary, prayers he said he would be reciting "in spiritual union with all of you."

Both prayers acknowledge Mary's closeness to her son's followers and ask for her protection and for her intercession just as she interceded with Jesus on behalf of the newlyweds at Cana who had run out of wine for their wedding feast.

"We know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial," one of the prayers read.

"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," one of the prayers said.

"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," it continued. "Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer."

Here are the texts of two prayers, written by Pope Francis, for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is asking people to recite the rosary and pray these prayers afterward.

"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 toward 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.

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

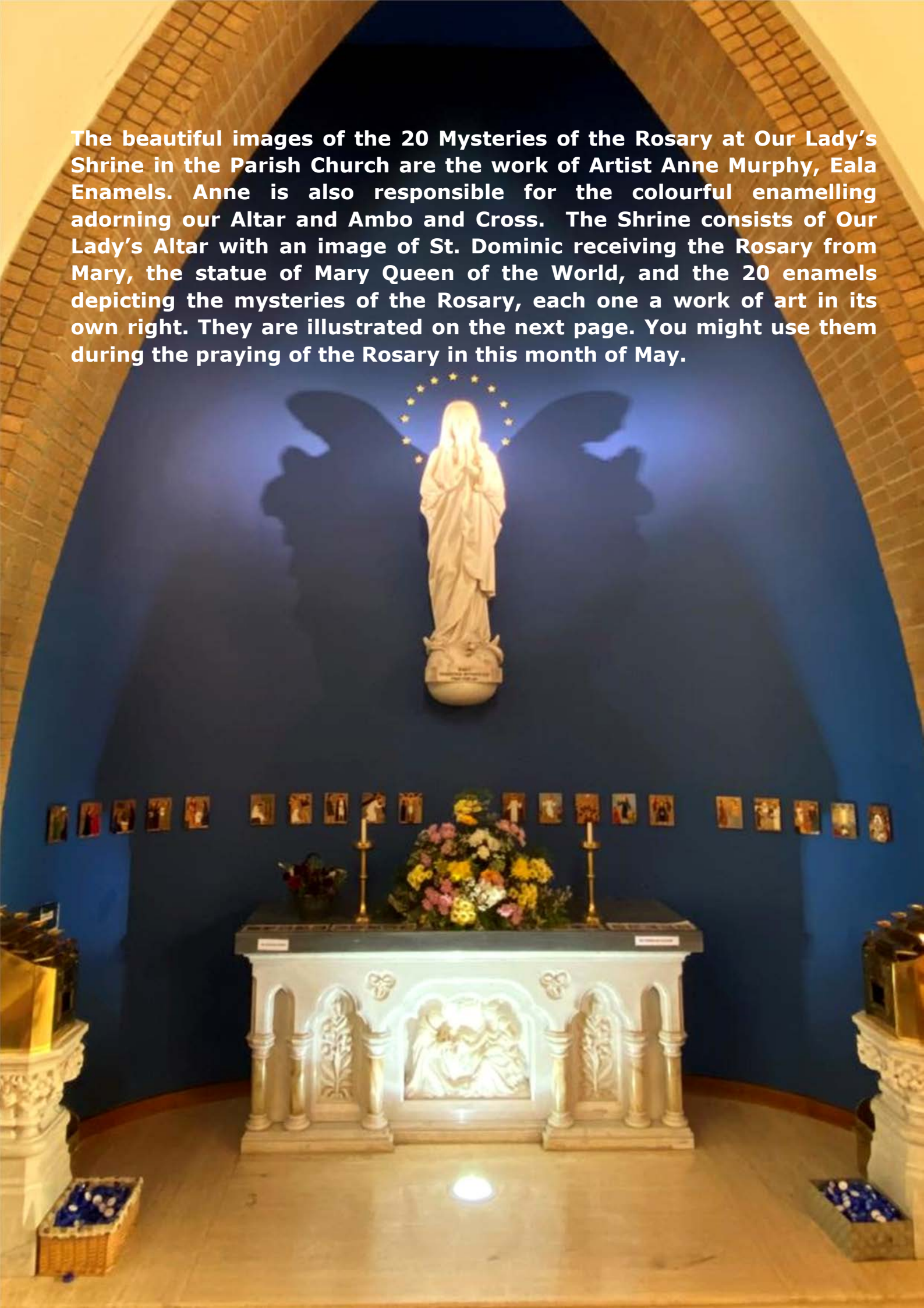
to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us.

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.



The beautiful images of the 20 Mysteries of the Rosary at Our Lady's Shrine in the Parish Church are the work of Artist Anne Murphy, Eala Enamels. Anne is also responsible for the colourful enamelling adorning our Altar and Ambo and Cross. The Shrine consists of Our Lady's Altar with an image of St. Dominic receiving the Rosary from Mary, the statue of Mary Queen of the World, and the 20 enamels depicting the mysteries of the Rosary, each one a work of art in its own right. They are illustrated on the next page. You might use them during the praying of the Rosary in this month of May.



The Joyful Mysteries



The Annunciation



The Visitation



The Birth of Our Lord



The Presentation in the Temple



The finding in the Temple

The Mysteries of Light



The Baptism in the Jordan



The Wedding feast of Cana



The Proclamation of the Kingdom



The Transfiguration



The Institution of the Eucharist

The Sorrowful Mysteries



The Agony in the Garden



The Scourging at the Pillar



The Crowning with thorns



The carrying of the Cross



The Crucifixion

The Glorious Mysteries



The Resurrection



The Ascension



The Descent of the Holy Spirit



The Assumption



The Coronation



Showing our Love for Jesus

How many of you have a pet? What kind of pet do you have? When I was a child, I had a pet parakeet named Pete. I spent hours playing with Pete and even taught him to talk. He would say, "Pete's a pretty bird. Pretty boy, pretty boy." We usually left the door to Pete's cage open during the day. When I walked in the door after school, Pete would fly to me and land on my shoulder. I loved that bird! Do you know how I showed Pete that I loved him? I took care him. I made sure that his cage was kept clean. I made sure that he had plenty of food and water. One of the most important ways I showed my love was by spending time with him.

Now, if I came over to your house and watched you and your pet together, how could I tell that you love your pet? What kind of things do you do to show your love? It is important to remember that it isn't enough to say you love your pet. Loving isn't something you say, it is something you show by the things you do. It is the a way you act toward someone or something.

Now, let me ask you a question. Do you love Jesus? How does Jesus know that you love him? What can you do to show Jesus that you love him? That is a hard question to answer, isn't it?

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples the answer to that question. Jesus said, "Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them."

It isn't enough just to say we love Jesus. Instead, we have to show God our love by DOING the right things – just like you show your love to your pets and your parents and your friends.

So, what are some things we can do to show our love for Jesus? The Bible is a good place to find the answer. I have listed a few ways that I found, perhaps you can think of some more.

1. Love one another (John 13:34-35)
2. Worship him (Luke 4:8)
3. Tell others about Jesus (Acts 1:8)
4. Talk to him daily in prayer (Matthew 26:41)
5. Read his Word (Psalm 119:11)

Dear Jesus

Heavenly Father, we are quick to tell you that we love you — but we know that we need to show our love too. Help us to show our love for you — just as you show your

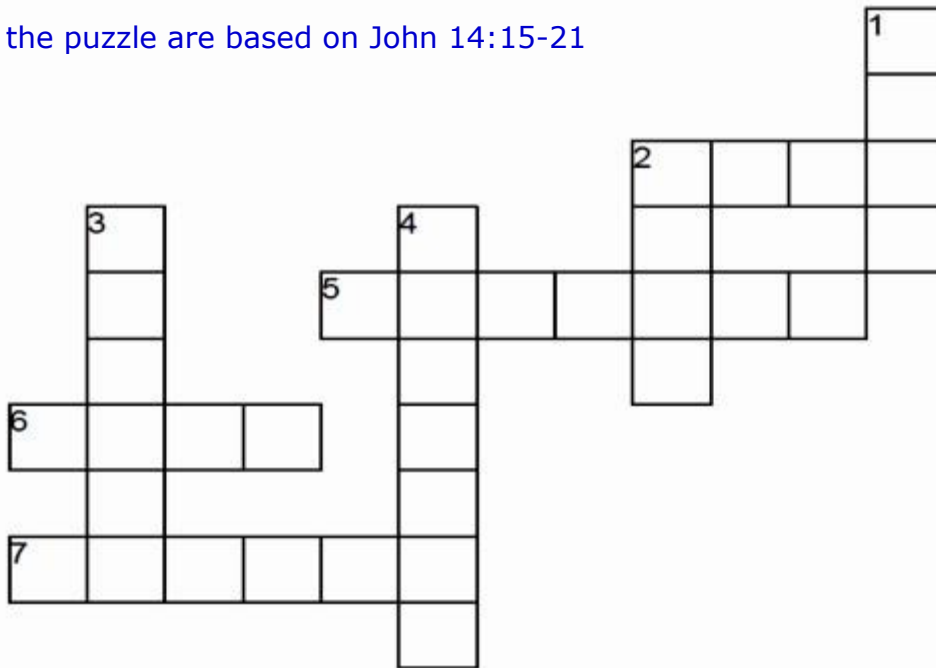


SHOWING OUR LOVE FOR JESUS

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

John 14:21

The words in the puzzle are based on John 14:15-21



HORIZONTAL

- 2. To have a deep feeling or affection for another person
- 5. An endless period of time
- 6. To give evidence of something
- 7. A child who has lost both mother and father

VERTICAL

- 1. To obey (such as the rules).
- 2. To be alive; the opposite of die
- 3. The relationship of God to Jesus
- 4. A rule or an order given to a person to do something

KEEP	SHOW	LOVE	COMMAND
FATHER	LIVE	FOREVER	ORPHAN

Quiz for Kids

- What is the first book in the Bible? Genesis
- What four books tell about Jesus life on Earth? Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- In what language was most of the Old Testament given? Hebrew
- What is the most likely the first Gospel written? Mark
- Who was the first man? Adam
- Who was the first woman? Eve
- Name the city where Jesus was born? Bethlehem
- Who was Jesus most famous cousin? John the Baptist
- What was Jesus mother's name? Mary





Photos of some of the children who attended our Special Mass last Saturday for all children who are preparing to their First Holy Communion.



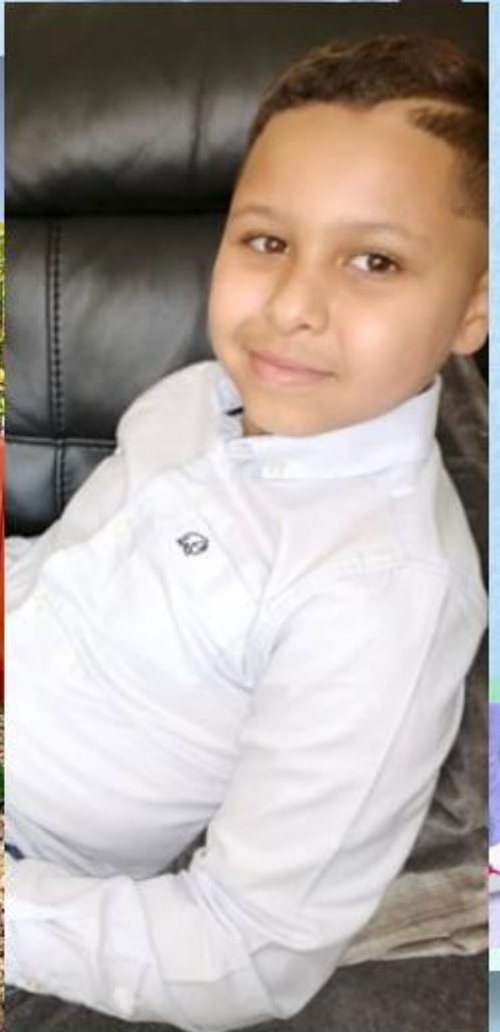














OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY



**Áine Hetherington-
Hegarty
Clonkeen**

**Patrick Hallinan
Dunmasc**

**Omolabake Kayode,
Summerhill, Stradbally Road**

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families

In Loving Memory of
Elizabeth Dunican
The Green, Kilminchy, Portlaoise.




*Me, you all will have forgotten,
When into another world I will be one day,
But when the sun shines for you
I will be smiling,
As I sleep in peace beneath the cold, damp clay.*

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in
St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Tuesday 19th May at 10am.

Sadly missed by her loving husband, daughters, sons & family.
May Elizabeth Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
PATRICK CONROY
Ballymacken, Portlaoise.

23rd Anniversary occurs 15th May 2020
Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on May 17th at 10am
in St. Peter and Paul's Church.



*Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*


Remembered always by his loving Family
May Patrick Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
GORDON HENRY ROWE
33 The Vesci Court, Fairgreen, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on 24th May at 10am
in St. Peter and Paul's Church.

Sailor's Rest
*When my sailing days are over
and I sail the seas no more
I shall build myself a refuge
By the ocean's murmuring shore
As I watch the foaming breakers
When the tide comes rushing in,
I will contemplate my lifetime
With its virtues and it's sins.*

*Where the azure of the heavens
Meets the undulating blue,
Where the sweeping, soaring seagull
Flies it's endless quest for food.
It is there that I would rest,
When my work on earth is done,
At the endless blue horizon
'Neath the crimson setting sun.*



*Sadly missed and never forgotten by his
family and friends.*
May Gordon Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
Una Tynan
Ballydavis



*Memories are like leaves of gold,
They never tarnish or grow old,
No more tomorrows for us to share,
But yesterdays memories
will always be there.*

Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated
in St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Sunday 17th May at 10am.

*Sadly missed by her loving husband John Joe, daughters Sylvia
and Esther, sons Stephen, Eddie, Glen, JJ, family & friends.*
May Una Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory...



Of a life so
beautifully lived,
And a heart so
deeply loved.



TIME TO THINK!

Darkness into light

Despite the confinement and lockdown, not to mention the Covid virus, we have enjoyed great weather this spring. Nature and the environment, has offered us all a sense of hope and encouragement despite the most challenging of times we live in. Nature seems to whisper “Trust...this too will pass”

The “Benedictus” from Morning Prayer concludes with the words “*He will give light to those in darkness, those who dwell in the shadow of death and guide us in the way of peace*”. How we need those few words to speak to us now in the difficult days that it is our lot to experience.

Each Spring we change the clocks from Greenwich Mean Time to Summer Time then put them back again in the days of Autumn. Changing the clock is an easy matter, changing the time we live in is altogether different. There we have no choice, for none of us determined our date of birth and so the days of our journey are not ours to decide. We do, however, have a responsibility to use them well.

In the midst of recent anguish and turmoil have been moments of great joy and generosity that have been sparks of brilliant light in the overwhelming darkness. The many unselfish acts one to another in time of need have been extraordinary. They have been blessed moments where adversity has been challenged and overcome. Apart from the example and leadership of many, we have turned to the companionship of others who have journeyed before us, to friends and relatives, writers, painters and poets.

The American writer, Richard Rohr, whose daily posting from the Centre for Action and Contemplation based in *Alamogordo*, New Mexico, is known to many, referenced recently the writings and life of the poet, pastor, mystic, John of the Cross.

John, who was chosen by Teresa of Avila to help in her reformation of the Carmelite Order, is always remembered for the brief phrase ‘*the dark night of the soul*’. He is a witness to the impact of God in his life. Rohr writes that “*John testifies to a God who, precisely, is pressing in to meet, to change, and to fill us in our deepest need. . . . Love changes people, and John’s witness to God’s love may help us to trust and to be brave.*”

He goes on to suggest that “*A generous God is fine when things are running smoothly. But what about when they are not and darkness is invading? What about when trusted patterns have broken down, or we feel too far gone to bother even trying? We dwell at outer limits, and some events in life—loss, failure, stress, sin—remind us of the threat of chaos. That is where John of the Cross stands: at the threshold of uncertainty; and he assures us that what dwells beyond is not simply chaos. The darkness bears the Spirit of God, who broods over the waters of death and has*

power to work a resurrection. In our darkness, he finds Jesus’s darkness; and what he echoes is the impact of Easter”.

We cannot prevent many of the misfortunes that it is our lot to experience but we can hopefully see beyond the darkness that we call night to greet the oncoming dawn of another day.

The photograph of nurses in Liverpool celebrating the end of a world war in 1945 is in marked contrast to current images of our, often young, H.S.E. hospital staff clad in PPE, administering comfort and care to their patients in the ICUs of our hospitals.

It was one such image that gave rise to the few lines with which I will conclude this week’s column. Our debt to them is immense. For some it has been a final act of their medical service as caring selflessly for others has been at the cost of the loss of their own lives. Clap for them, yes. Thank them with sincere gratitude, yes. Pray for them, always.

Night watch

Drip,

Press, compress

Drip,

Press, compress.

Soft, silent shadows hover

in the endless stretch of each nursed night.

***Blue plastic-wrapped movement shifts
from life machine to metal framed bed.***

***Fluid piped into an unconscious form
Soft words spoken into an unhearing ear
a heaving chest, an unspoken fear
closed eyes, an unshed tear.***

Drip,

Press, compress

Drip,

Press, compress.....



Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 17,000 followers or @AbbeyleixP or check out Paddy Byrne on Facebook.



Shalom
WORLD

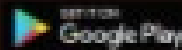
Holy Hour

LIVE from St. Peter & St. Paul's Church
Portlaoise, Ireland

Every Thursday **7:30 P** **2.30 P** **4.30 A**
BST *ET* *AEST*
(Next Day)

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**FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE
LIVING PENTECOST TODAY**

LIVE STREAMED AT 7.30PM

NAAS 27/05

PORTLAOISE 28/05

GRAIGUECULLEN 29/05

KANDLE.IE

A TRIDUUM OF
PRAYER ACROSS THE DIOCESE OF
KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN

CONCLUDING WITH THE VIGIL MASS FOR
PENTECOST SUNDAY ON THE 30TH MAY
AT 6.15PM LIVE FROM CARLOW
CATHEDRAL