

**PORTLAOISE**

**PARISH**

**link  
Up**

**31st May 2020**



The third Glorious mystery of the Rosary  
The Descent of the Holy Spirit  
on the Apostles  
(Image from our Lady's Shrine  
in the Parish Church)


# **Pentecost Sunday**

The Parish Centre 057 8621142

E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)

Parish and Diocesan Websites: [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie) [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)

**Follow Us**  @PortlaoiseParis

**& Like Us**  [fb.com/portlaoiseparishlaois](https://fb.com/portlaoiseparishlaois)  
[fb.com/portlaoiselinkup](https://fb.com/portlaoiselinkup)

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



Parish Shop

Now Open  
Monday - Friday  
9am - 1pm



## Trócaire

Trócaire Boxes can now be left into  
the Parish Office. We are now  
opened Monday - Friday from 9am  
until 1pm.

We would ask if you would **NOT** leave  
Boxes in the Church unattended.

## 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](http://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.

## 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  
viewed on our website and our Church  
Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person  
Mick Daly [dlp@kandle.ie](mailto:dlp@kandle.ie)

## Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm  
Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722  
E-mail: [info@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:info@portlaoiseparish.ie)  
Twitter: @portlaoiseparis  
**MANAGER** Declan Kelly

**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](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie)



Secretary: Julie Conroy

Monday to Thursday

11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm

057-8692154

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday

Subject to availability of space

E-mail: [linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie](mailto:linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie)

PARISH SHOP

057 8621142



## Month of the Sacred Heart

June is traditionally the month when Catholics are urged to show special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Devotion to the Sacred Heart is the celebration of God's love for us. The Sacred Heart is the symbol of the eternal love by which

**"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son". (Jn 3:16)**



*Sacred Heart Picture in our Parish Church*

## Happy Birthday to the Church



### *Some Pentecost Facts:*

The word "Pentecost" is derived from the Greek word for "fifty."

The Day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2, occurred 50 days after Jesus' resurrection and 10 days after His ascension.

The day celebrates the sending of the Holy Spirit to the disciples following Jesus' ascension.

The Day of Pentecost is seen as the culmination of the Easter season.

In many calendars, the day is listed as "Whitsunday." This comes from the phrase "White Sunday," and refers to practice of the newly baptized appearing in their white, baptismal garments on that day.

## Church of the Assumption, The Heath



The above are photos of the Heath Church as we left it after Christmas. It was closed to facilitate a major work of renewal and upgrading to be reopened in time for Easter. As is said 'man proposes God disposes'. All was going well and then Lockdown!

As we move towards an easing of restrictions and renewed hope that 'this too will pass' we have some good news. The work is completed (almost) and we can move towards a reopening of our beloved and replenished Church of the Assumption. Bishop Denis will celebrate a Mass of rededication there next Sunday 7th June at 12 noon. Unfortunately it will have to be behind closed doors but will be live streamed via Facebook Live and will be accessible via our Parish Facebook and Website - [www.portlaoiseparish.ie](http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie).

Church open following Rededication:

The Church will be opened each day for a restricted time. It is understandable that a large number of people will want to visit the Church on its reopening. Stewards will be in attendance to ensure that limited and appropriate numbers of people are in the Church at any one time and that the regulations re. sanitary and hygiene and social distancing are observed. In the first few days following reopening entry will be by the front door and exit by the Sacristy door. If there is a large number of people we ask that people will make their visit reasonably short- a quick visit to see the Church, say a quick prayer, maybe light a candle, exit and make room for other people. I'm sure it will settle down after a few days when you will be very welcome to spend as much time as you like in the Church.

Photos of the renewed Church of the Assumption and times of opening in next week's Link Up.



# TIME TO THINK!

## Spirit of God, loving and free

These days all of us are confronted with situations which seem confusing and contradictory and we wonder where we are going and what the outcome might be. At times we may feel quite helpless in these kinds of circumstances. Today we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on this Feast of Pentecost. The night before he died Jesus, aware of the implications for his followers of his forthcoming death and eventual return to his Father in Heaven, promised that he would not leave his disciples to make their way in this world on their own and would send the Holy Spirit to guide them on their journey. In that sense the Holy Spirit gives expression to the on-going presence of Jesus with his followers. This is what we celebrate on this Feast.

Pentecost is not just some thing that happened but rather is a living gift for all generations. As followers of Christ, the Spirit of his love anoints us all with great hope and rich blessings. During this uncertain time of pandemic and necessary restrictions, the Spirit of Christ, this Pentecost, offers opportunity to indulge in a wonderful gift. The Spirit of God anoints each one of us with courage, wisdom, hope, resilience and a deep confidence that all will be well.

In the last years of his life, the great cellist and conductor Pablo Casals suffered greatly from rheumatoid arthritis and emphysema. At 90, he was badly stooped, his head thrust forward, and his breathing laboured. He needed the help of his wife, Marta, to get dressed in the morning. Marta would then help him shuffle into his studio where he would, with great difficulty, arrange himself on the piano bench. Casals would then manage to raise his swollen, clenched fingers above the keyboard. A visitor describes what he saw next, one particular morning: "I was not prepared for the miracle that was about to happen. The fingers slowly unlocked and reached toward the keys like the buds of a plant toward the sunlight. His back straightened. He seemed to breathe more freely. Now his fingers settled on the keys. Then came the opening bars of Bach's Wohltemperierte Klavier [Well-tempered Clavier], played with great sensitivity and control . .

He hummed as he played, then said that Bach 'spoke to him here' – and he placed his hand over his heart. "Then he plunged into a Brahms concerto and his fingers, now agile and powerful, raced across the keyboard with dazzling speed. His entire body seemed fused with the music; it was no longer stiff and shrunken but supple and graceful and completely freed of its arthritic coils. "Having finished the piece, he stood up by himself, far straighter and taller than when he had come into the room. He walked to the breakfast table with no trace of a shuffle, ate heartily, talked animatedly, finished the meal, then went for a walk on the beach."

**(From Anatomy of an Illness as Perceived by the Patient: Reflections on Healing and Regeneration by Norman Cousins).**

Like music that inspires and exhilarates, the Spirit of God is the melody that energizes the Church, uniting our many different voices into the song of the Love of God. God has formed us into a community, or Church, an instrument for bringing His life and love into our world. But what makes our Church more than just a gathering of good people is His "Breath" infusing the Church, His Mystical Body, with the music of His Divinity. Today we celebrate that presence. In Jesus' breathing upon the assembled disciples on Easter night the new life of the Holy Spirit, the community of the Resurrection — the Church — takes flight. That same Holy Spirit continues to "blow" through today's Church, giving life and direction to our mission and ministry to

preach the Gospel to every nation, immersing all of humanity in the music of God's love, the symphony of the Resurrection.



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



## The Power and Light

Do you know what day today is? Today is a very special day. This is Pentecost Sunday. It's the time when we remember that before Jesus returned to heaven, he promised that his Father would send a helper — the Holy Spirit — to live inside of those who follow him. He promised that the Holy Spirit would give them the power to do great and mighty things.



It happened just as Jesus said it would. On the day which is called Pentecost, the disciples were all together in one place. The Gospel tells us that there was a sound from heaven like a mighty rushing wind and it filled the place where the disciples were gathered. Then, there were flames of fire that appeared and rested upon each of them. When these things happened, the disciples were filled with power and began to preach and teach about Jesus. They were able to do things that they had never done before because of the power of the Holy Spirit in them.

If you imagine having a torch at home and using it, this will help us understand just how important the Holy Spirit is. A torch is not very large, but it sure puts out a bright light, doesn't it? If the electricity goes off and it is dark, a torch helps me find my way around the house. They provide an emergency lighting system.

What do you think gives a torch the power to light up a room? Of course, the torch has a battery inside that gives it power. Without that power inside, the torch just doesn't work. That reminds me of the way the Holy Spirit works in our life. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Our Scripture today tells us that on the day of Pentecost people were filled with the Holy Spirit so that they could do mighty things as the Spirit gave them the ability. It is the same power of the Holy Spirit that enables you and me to let our light shine in the world. Just as a torch must have batteries to give it power, the Holy Spirit is our source of power to live for Jesus.



**Heavenly Father,**

**Thank you that you have sent us the power of the Holy Spirit. Please fill us up each day with the Holy Spirit that we would have the power to live for Jesus and let his light shine in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## The Day of Pentecost

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:4

SPEAK	LANGUAGE
PENTECOST	HEAVEN
BLOWING	SOUND
OTHER	HOLY
SPIRIT	HEAR
FILLED	WIND
FIRE	TONGUES
AMAZED	

Y K J T N K H J G A M A Z E D  
 T Q B F F P E N T E C O S T U  
 L P I Q H C I D Q I E S T R G  
 H R J C I W D F B E Q V C O G  
 H E A R O S T F I L L E D A R  
 P W S L G T P O C C K R X X S  
 Y S B P P F H I N U W I P F L  
 L V C D E N D E R G U I J C W  
 K A Z Z I A U W R I U L N R Y  
 I W N M O L K X Q U T E D D U  
 C F H G H E A V E N C I S A D  
 J O I O U E Z A E X G H T N O  
 R E Q R L A D E W E E N U Y Y  
 C H J P E Y G H I N T O H F H  
 F A H T I M L E U Y S T R G B

## Gifts of the Holy Spirit

**Wisdom** is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. The gift of wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could lead you away from God.

**Understanding** is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of the Church. The gift of understanding helps you be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps you sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.

**Right Judgment** is the gift of prudence. The gift of right judgment helps you make choices to live as a faithful follower of Jesus.

**Courage, or Fortitude**, is the gift that helps you stand up for your faith in Christ. The gift of courage helps you overcome any obstacles that would keep you from practicing your faith.

**Knowledge** is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. The gift of knowledge enables you to choose the right path that will lead you to God. It encourages you to avoid obstacles that will keep you from him.

**Reverence or Piety**, is the gift of confidence in God. This gift of reverence inspires you to joyfully want to serve God and others.



**OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR  
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY**



**Séan Farrell**  
Broomville and late of  
Rosenallis

**Hollie Brown-Quail**  
Chantiere Gate



**Joanna Sznura**  
Fairgreen

**Kit Hosty**  
Ballyhaunis, Mayo / Portlaoise

**Margaret (Marty) O'Gorman**  
Upper Beladd



**Wesley O'Brien**  
Heather Lane, Esker Hills

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**  
*Our sympathy to their families*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**DAVID CARROLL**

**34th Anniversary occurs 7th June 2020**



*Because you cannot see me, does not  
mean that I'm not there, because I am in  
Heaven, does not mean I do not care.  
I often see you crying, you often say  
my name, I want to hold you tight,  
I want to ease your pain.  
It's easy for me,  
for I know Heaven is real,  
If you knew the truth,  
how much better you would feel.*

*One day we will meet again, when the time is right,  
When you step out of the darkness,  
I will be standing in the light.*

*Always remembered and never forgotten; Dad, Mam, Sister,  
Brothers, Sisters-in-law, Brother-in-law,  
Nieces and Nephews xxx*

**Also remember David's Grandad**  
**JIM CARROLL**  
Anniversary occurs 9th June

*Will those who think of him today,  
A little prayer to Jesus say.*



*Always remembered, Jimmy, Maureen,  
grandchildren and great-grandchildren. xxx*

*May David and Jim Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**JIMMY FITZPATRICK**

*Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise,  
whose 4th Anniversary occurs 7th June*



*Sadly missed by  
his loving wife Anne  
along with his daughters  
Áine, Maureen, Eilish and Roisin  
and extended family*

*Ar dheis dé go raibh a anam dílis*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**MICHAEL (MICK) CULLEN**

*Kilteale  
Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 7th June  
at 10am in St. Peter and Paul's Church.*



*Deep are the memories,  
precious they stay;  
No passing of time,  
can take them away.*

*Sadly missed and never forgotten by  
Breda, Debbie, David, family and friends.*

*May Mick Rest in Peace*

**In Loving Memory of**  
**PAUL FITZPATRICK**

*Heath View, Killone, Stradbally.  
19th Anniversary occurs 7th June 2020.*



*Paul's Anniversary Mass will be  
celebrated in the St. Peter and Paul's  
Church on Sunday 7th June at 10am.*

*Sadly missed along life's way,  
Quietly remembered everyday,  
No longer in our lives to share,  
But in our hearts you are always there.*

*Loved and remembered by Mam, Dad, sisters,  
brother and extended family.*

*May Paul Rest in Peace*

**Your life was a blessing,  
Your memory a treasure...  
You are loved beyond words  
And missed beyond measure.**





## Prayer to Discover Your Vocation

Almighty God,  
You have made me to know you,  
To love you, and to serve you,  
And thereby to find and fulfil myself.  
I know that you are in all things  
And that every path can lead me to you,  
But, of them all, there is one path especially  
By which you want me to come to you.  
Since I will do what you want of me,  
I pray you; send your Holy Spirit to me;  
Into my mind to show me what you want of me;  
Into my heart to give me the  
determination to do it,  
And to do it with all my love, with all my mind,  
And with all my strength, right to the end.  
Amen.

# Coronavirus COVID-19

**A PARISH INITIATIVE  
DURING THIS CRISIS**

**For the Elderly and  
Vulnerable in our Parish**

If you need any assistance during this time, to pick up prescriptions or to do some shopping, or would like to talk to someone we have a team of volunteers ready to help. Please call

**085 2125978**

**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



## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT DURING COVID 19

THE PORTLAOISE PARISH BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT TEAM WOULD LIKE TO OFFER OUR CONDOLENCES TO ALL FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE ESPECIALLY DURING COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS. WE ARE CONSCIOUS THAT THIS IS A VERY DIFFICULT TIME FOR THE BEREAVED AND HAVE INCLUDED SOME INFORMATION FOR YOU TO ACCESS SHOULD YOU REQUIRE SUPPORT.

**IRISH HOSPICE FOUNDATION  
SUPPORT DURING CARONAVIRUS**  
[www.bereaved.ie](http://www.bereaved.ie)

**HSE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT  
DURING CARONAVIRIS** [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)

**PORTLAOISE PARISH BEREAVEMENT  
SUPPORT 087 9878300**

## PRAYER AT TIME OF BEREAVEMENT

Lord, you are close  
to the broken hearted  
Be with me now in  
my grief and loneliness.  
Give me courage to face loss  
and not grieve in silence  
Be with me as I struggle with the many  
different and painful feelings.  
Ease the hurt in my heart  
Encircle me in your love.  
Help me to believe that one day I will  
no longer have this deep sorrow.  
May I find comfort in sharing my grief  
with those who understand  
the strong bonds of love  
Stay with me, Lord support me  
Help me to know your power is at work  
within me as I deal with my grief.

## Self-Made Prisons

As were the first disciples, so we are sent out on a great mission to make disciples of all nations. We are sent out each with our own style of evangelisation and our own very individual array of gifts. There should be no stopping us, and yet there is. Like it or not, we all live in little prisons of our own making. We might live in a prison where every corner of our life has been consumed by the need to make money leaving no room for anything else. We might live in a prison where household chores dominate from morning until night. We might live behind



the locked doors of inadequacy, inferiority, self-doubt or fear. We might have spent our whole lives building prisons brick by brick so that whatever dreams we might once have had, we are now totally incapable of realising them.

In today's gospel we find the disciples locked away for fear of the Jews, and we must surely be able to empathise with them. But then comes the good news. Jesus shows us that the Holy Spirit is the exit from the hopelessness of being locked into a fearful and damaging past. The Holy Spirit is not shy of the boundaries that people erect. The Holy Spirit is not halted by locked doors or locked hearts. We may have spent our past making feeble attempts to love, to forgive or to make special things happen, but today's exciting message is that the past does not have to equal the future. The Spirit which filled the apostles and enabled them to change history is the very same Spirit which has been given to us. If we believe in, and trust in the Holy Spirit, we can make things happen.

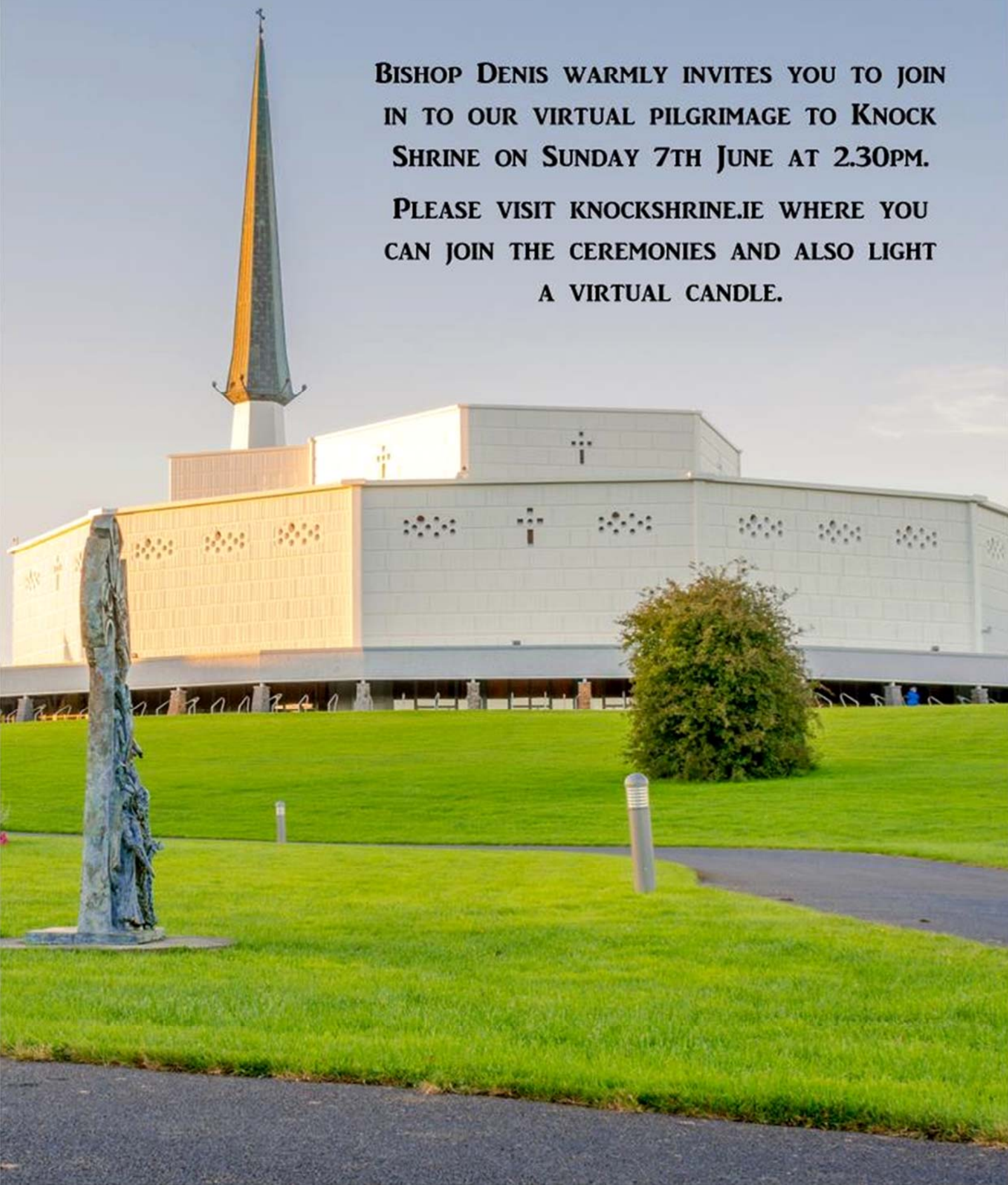
We can of course spend more of our short lives locked away, doubting as Thomas did that anything miraculous could happen. At the end of the day the proof of the pudding would be to step out of our self-made prisons and allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives.

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# VIRTUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE 7TH JUNE

**BISHOP DENIS WARMLY INVITES YOU TO JOIN  
IN TO OUR VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK  
SHRINE ON SUNDAY 7TH JUNE AT 2.30PM.**

**PLEASE VISIT [KNOCKSHRINE.IE](http://KNOCKSHRINE.IE) WHERE YOU  
CAN JOIN THE CEREMONIES AND ALSO LIGHT  
A VIRTUAL CANDLE.**



# COME HOLY SPIRIT



SONGS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

LIVE FROM ST. PETER AND PAUL'S PARISH  
CHURCH, PORTLAOISE AT 6.30PM  
PENTECOST SUNDAY, 31ST MAY.

[WWW.PORTLAOISEPARISH.IE](http://WWW.PORTLAOISEPARISH.IE)

[WWW.SHALOMWORLDTV.COM/LIVE](http://WWW.SHALOMWORLDTV.COM/LIVE)

106.5FM