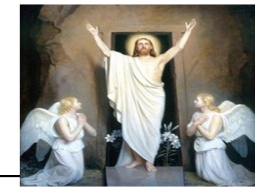




**PARISH PASTORAL UNIT**  
**ABBEYFEALE, ATHEA, TEMPLEGLANTINE, TOURNAFULLA, MOUNTCOLLINS**



**21st May 2023**

[www.abbeyfealeparish.ie](http://www.abbeyfealeparish.ie)

email [fealechurch@eircom.net](mailto:fealechurch@eircom.net)

Church Sacristy 068 - 51915

Parish Office 068 - 31133

**Co Parish Priests of the Pastoral Area**

**Fr Denis Mullane 087/2621911**  
**Fr Tony Mullins 087/2600414**  
**Fr Willie Russell 087/2272825**  
**Fr Dan Lane (Retired) 087/2533030**  
**Fr James Ambrose (Retired) Tel 087/7740753**

**Priest on Duty this Sunday 21st May**

Fr Willie Russell is on call this Sunday. For emergency calls he can be contacted on 087/2272825

**Intentions for next weekend**

**6.30pm** Pats, Bridget, Jeremiah & Dan Joe Murphy  
 Banard Anniv.

Geoffrey Fitzgerald 3 The Belfrey Months Mind  
 Martin Ward, Ballaugh/Cratloe 1st Anniv.  
 Maureen Browne, Church Street Anniv.

**10am** Dick Fitzgerald Dromtrasna Anniv.  
 Denis Barry, Clash Road Anniv.

**12noon** Jack Scannell, St Itas Terrace Anniv.  
 Nora & William Flynn and deceased family members  
 Nora Moloney, Knocknasna Anniv.

**Mon 7pm** Shelia & Timothy Murphy Anniv.  
 Denny & Mary O'Connor, Kilconlea Anniv.

**Tues 10am** Pro-Populo

**Wed 10am**

**Thurs 10am**

**Fri 10am For the Sick of the Parish**

**Intentions for next weekend**

**6.30pm** Kathleen Wrenn, New Street Anniv.  
 Dick & Michael Fitzgerald, Railway Bar Anniv.

**10am** John Joe Healy, Caherlane Anniv.  
 Eily Healy Caherlane  
 Timothy & Nell Healy Caherlane Anniv.

**12noon** Anthony O'Connor, Mountmahon Anniv.  
 Niall O'Mahony Collins Park Birthday remembrance

**Death**

We offer our sympathy to the family on Nora O'Donnell, The Hill whose funeral took place on Wednesday.  
 May she rest in peace.

**DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP:**

The weekly Divine Mercy prayer group have resumed meeting after the 7pm Mass every **Monday**. New members are always welcome.

**The Month of Mary**

*By Fr Paul Clayton-Lea*

On a visit to Nazareth some months ago a pilgrim approached me to say how surprised she was to discover that 'Our Lady was Jewish!' and she followed quickly with a question 'When did she become a Catholic then?' It was an innocent, sincere query and as I struggled to answer I realised afresh the extraordinary courage of the young Jewish girl who had changed the course of salvation history with her 'Yes' to God's call. What Mary was faced with in responding to that call was indeed a break from the religious traditions and expectations of a young Jewish woman of her time. She could not have been certain of the response of Joseph her betrothed, or her own family who tradition holds had dedicated her to the Temple as a small child. More certain was the response of religious authorities which would have condemned her mysterious pregnancy out of hand as they would later condemn the fruit of her womb. Yes, Mary was not short of courage to match her faith.

During the month of May, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, Mary, Mother of the Church, the Visitation and this year, Pentecost Sunday when Mary gathered with the apostles in prayer. But the whole month of May has been known as the month of Mary for centuries. A month dedicated to Mary even existed outside May from 15 August to 14 September but at some point Mary and May combined and the tradition of crowning the statue of Mary with flowers representing her beauty and virtue became a great celebration. Whether we mark this month with an altar to her, crown her with flowers or with our own spiritual exercises or pray the rosary may we invite Mary and her example of courage and faith more deeply into our lives.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said; 'If you ever feel distressed during your day — call upon our Lady — just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit — this prayer has never failed me.'

**Holy Spirit Friend at our Side and within us**

Saint Irenaeus lived about a hundred years after the time of Jesus. He wrote a beautiful meditation on the return of the Prodigal Son and how his father hugged him back home in welcome. In his imagination, Irenaeus pictured the two hands of the father. One hand is visibly taking the hand of the son in warm welcome. The other hand is not visible as it is behind the son, drawing him closer in a loving hug. The visible hand represents Jesus who sat with sinners and ate with them. The unseen hand represents the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not seen directly but the warm embrace of the Holy Spirit transforms life. The Holy Spirit is the Advocate, the friend at our side and within us. This coming week let us all take some time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit into our lives. May we grow each day in awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit beside us.

**Come Holy Spirit**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,  
 and enkindle in us the fire of your love.  
 Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created,  
 and you shall renew the face of the earth.  
 Amen.



**Day of Prayer for the Church in China 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

"Dear brothers and sisters of the universal Church, all of us are called to recognise as one of the signs of our times everything that is happening today in the life of the Church in China. We have an important duty: to accompany our brothers and sisters in China with fervent prayer and fraternal friendship. Indeed, they need to feel that in the journey that now lies ahead, they are not alone. They need to be accepted and supported as a vital part of the Church. Mother of Heaven, hear the plea of your children as we humbly call upon your name!

Virgin of Hope, we entrust to you the journey of the faithful in the noble land of China. We ask you to present to the Lord of history the trials and tribulations, the petitions and the hopes of all those who pray to you, O Queen of Heaven! Mary, Help of Christians, for China we implore days of blessing and of peace. Amen!"

*Pope Francis*

**Called to bring Christ's Message to the World**

*God has given us power to create beauty,  
 to make another smile,  
 to be a healing presence in someone's sorrow,  
 to bring justice to the oppressed,  
 to console those in difficulty,  
 to bring peace and joy to others,  
 to help those in need, to laugh and enjoy life,  
 to do good and turn from evil, to forgive those who hurt us,  
 and most of all to love.*

*Iris Perez*

**Parish Clerks collection** will take place this weekend 20th /21st May.

Envelopes in your box of envelopes are at the doors of the church.

Thanks you for your continued support.

**First Holy Communion**

Congratulations to the children of second class in St Mary's Boys and Scoil Mháthair

Dé schools who celebrated their First Holy Communion on Saturday.

Congratulations to their parents and teachers who prepared the children for the sacraments. Thanks to all who prepared the church for the Masses.

**Queen of the May**

Bring flowers of the rarest, bring blossoms the fairest,  
 From garden and woodland and hillside and dale:  
 Our full hearts are swelling, our glad voices telling  
 The praise of the loveliest flower on the vale.

*O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today  
 Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May  
 O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today  
 Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.*

Their lady they name thee, their mistress proclaim thee.  
 Oh, grant that thy children on earth be as true,  
 As long as the bowers are radiant with flowers,  
 As long as the azure shall keep it's bright hue.

**Please take this newsletter home with you or put it in the bin on your way out.**

**Thank you.**