

Ferrybank & Slieverue Parish Newsletter

24th May 2020

The Ascension of the Lord

World Communications Day



Recently Deceased

Kitty O'Neill,
Rockenham

Joe Bourke,
Waterford/Piltown

Anniversaries

Eddie Hartley
(1st Anniv.)

Jossie Coady
(1st Anniv.)

Margaret (Peggy) Davin

Brenda Burns

Martina Walsh

Jim O'Donoghue

Tommy Darmody

James Doyle

May they rest in peace

Ferrybank & Slieverue Parish Contact Details

Very Rev. Kieran O'Shea P.P.

Tel. 051-832773/051-83081

Website

www.ferrybankparish.com

www.ossory.ie

Dear friends,

this weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension. The traditional image of Jesus being taken up beyond the clouds into heaven points to a new reality for the disciples of Jesus then and now. The resurrection had given the first disciples new hope. They experienced him as alive and present with them. Now however they had to let go of a familiar way of experiencing Christ and embrace a new way of discipleship. Jesus had brought them ever closer to the mystery of God's Love. Now **they** were commissioned to bring people ever closer to Jesus and to the mystery of God's Love. In the first reading this weekend from the Acts of the Apostles we hear; *'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'*

The new mission given to the disciples was not going to be achieved by standing around looking into the sky. Their mission was to have their feet on the ground, and with the help of the Holy Spirit to till the ground, to plough the hearts of women and men with the Good News of Jesus Christ so that the seeds of faith, hope and love could take root in their lives and communities. In this way Jesus would come back again and again in the same way as they had known him - bringing peace, mercy, hope & new life.

In these days of Covid - 19 is it possible that we too are being invited to let go of familiar ways of celebrating our faith in Jesus and to embrace new ways of doing so? It is never the mission of the church to stand around looking into the sky dreaming sentimentally of the past or fearfully avoiding present and future realities. It is our mission to have our feet on the ground, our gaze on Christ and our trust in the Holy Spirit. So in these days, as we approach the feast of Pentecost let us ask that same Spirit to lead us to new and exciting ways of communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ as we prepare to embrace the 'new normal'.

During the coming week we will be contacting some of our Ministers of the Word to continue their ministry of reading the Word of God at Mass.

Plans are well under way for a new website for our two parishes and we hope to be up and running in a few weeks.

This weekend we are delighted to gather via facebook live stream with parents and children who would have been celebrating First Communion this weekend in Slieverue. Families will be remembered in a special way at our Saturday evening Mass at 6 pm.

A big thank you to the staff of our schools OLG Girls & St Mary's Boys & Abbey Community College who are doing such great work looking after their students, staff and families at this time.



The 54th World Day of Social Communications is celebrated today, 24th May – the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord.

Pope Francis has chosen to reflect on the theme of storytelling in his message this year. In the intro to his message on the theme **“That you may tell your children and grandchildren” (Ex 10:2) Life becomes history**”, the Holy Father says, “I would like to devote this year’s Message

to the theme of storytelling, because I believe that, so as not to lose our bearings, we need to make our own the truth contained in good stories. Stories that build up, not tear down; stories that help us rediscover our roots and the strength needed to move forward together. Amid the cacophony of voices and messages that surround us, we need a human story that can speak of ourselves and of the beauty all around us. A narrative that can regard our world and its happenings with a tender gaze. A narrative that can tell us that we are part of a living and interconnected tapestry. A narrative that can reveal the interweaving of the threads which connect us to one another.”

This Week's Calendar

Mon. 25th May - St. Bede, St. Gregory & St. Mary Magdalene de 'Pazzi

Tues. 26th May - St. Philip Neri. Wed. 27th May - St. Augustine of Canterbury

Parish Office

Due to the **Coronavirus** outbreak our Parish Office is closed to visitors at this time but if we can help you with anything, please contact us on the phone on 051-830813 or email: ferrybank@ossory.ie slieverue@ossory.ie

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

Please remember that Baptisms, & Weddings can be celebrated with

a minimum of participants and as long as social distancing is observed in accordance with Government Guidelines.

Funerals can be celebrated as long as the congregation **does not exceed ten people who are not cocooning** and as long as social distancing is observed in accordance with Government Guidelines.

Mass Intentions

Please note that Masses already booked for Ferrybank & Slieverue will be offered at the normal time of 10am every morning and will be remembered at our weekend Mass which will be shared. (only one Mass in our churches each weekend). All of these Masses will be celebrated without a full congregation until further notice.

Safeguarding Our Children

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are

Ferrybank - Breda Freyne & Jerry Hughes.

Slieverue - Mary Kenny

If you, or anyone you know, has a safeguarding concern or wishes to report an allegation directly to Statutory Authorities contact the Gardai or Túsla An Garda Síochána 1800 555 222. Túsla Child and Family Agency, Waterford 051-842827. The Diocesan Designated Liaison Person **Mr Cathal Cullen, Tel. 087 100 0232.**- email dlp@ossory.ie

LOUGH DERG ONLINE RETREAT DAYS

JOIN THE LOUGH DERG TEAM DURING MAY

Sunday 24th May & Wednesday 27th May 2020

A GUIDE TO YOUR ONLINE RETREAT

10:30am Go to loughderg.live

10:45am Welcome *from the Prior, Msgr La Flynn*

11:05am The Word of God - *Reflection on the Good Samaritan with Mary*

11:30am Prayer of Intercession *with Rosary*

12 noon Angelus *followed by Way of the Cross*

1:45pm Jesus the Healer *with Deacon Martin*

2:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

2:20pm Time of Contemplation

2:40pm Closing Prayer

Lough Derg phone lines are open 9am-5pm,

Monday-Friday in May Tel: +353 (0) 71 9861518

Email. info@loughderg.org

Website. www.loughderg.org



Cemetery Masses 2020

Bishop Farrell has written to all parishes to ask that Cemetery Masses and the Annual Blessing of Graves be postponed at this time. This decision is taken in light of the guidance from NPHET: social distancing would be compromised and by their very nature the gatherings would invite families to travel long distance; further concern was expressed that large family groups might gather around a single grave and that the Mass might attract a large number of elderly people.

Ways to join together for Mass ... Live & Recorded Masses from Ferrybank & Slieverue

Please note that during the coming week advance notice will be given when our Liturgies will be live streamed on our Facebook page. Mass is also broadcast daily on RTE News Now TV at 10.30m each day

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024

Kilkenny Co. Council

Kilkenny Co. Council has established a helpline for those who are in need of support with services such as delivery of food or transport for essential trips. Phone 1800 500 000