

# FERRYBANK & SLIEVERUE PARISH NEWSLETTER

## The Walk to Emmaus...

This weekend our gospel story is the familiar 'Road to Emmaus or the Walk to Emmaus. It's basically a story about two followers of Jesus who are traumatised by his recent suffering and death and are running away. However what happens as they make the journey and who they meet as they walk along is what changes everything. In our Christian Tradition the walk or the journey has always been as important as the destination. In fact what happens along the 'way' quite often determines the destination. In other words setting out on the journey has always been an act of faith.

This is best seen in the Christian tradition of pilgrimage. For centuries Christians have undertaken pilgrimages or long 'spiritual' walks to renew their encounter with Christ. In our own country there are several pilgrim paths and indeed throughout Europe too - one of the most popular nowadays being the 'Camino' or pilgrimage to the tomb of St James in Santiago de Compostela.



WALK TO  
EMMAUS

There is a film called 'The Way' with Martin Sheen which tells the story of his characters experience on the Camino. You may have watched it or have it in your DVD collection. If not, it is well worth a watch. You may be able to download it or if you want to borrow it feel free to give me a call. You will see that like our friends on the road to Emmaus whose lives

are transformed by their encounter with the risen Lord so our lives can be transformed by him on the pilgrimage of life. The most important thing to bring on a pilgrimage is not your back pack or money or even a good pair of walking shoes (although they may be of help!) but a heart open to God and the ears of your soul tuned in to listen to the One who speaks through the winding road, the sometimes rugged conditions, and people you meet along the way.

These days we may not be able to make pilgrimage past 2km or maybe even at all. However we don't have to go anywhere. Each day is a pilgrim path, your back garden or indeed inside your own home can become the place of encounter with God, it can be the smooth path bathed in sunshine or the rough road, all uphill shadowed by clouds of darkness. Either way it is where you begin to realise that someone is walking beside you with every step. He wants you to Trust Him so that you may have hope - Trust & Hope even if you are not sure where the road is leading you. Life is a pilgrimage and as the two followers of Jesus found out Emmaus is not a destination but the place where we discover that we are not alone & we have been given the gifts needed to continue the journey.

## News Update

During the week First Communion celebrations in our parishes were put on hold until further notice. This is disappointing for families yet the uncertainty could not continue. Parents were seeking clarity and for better or worse that is what we now have. What we are not clear about is when all our Confirmations and Communions will be rescheduled. That is another days work! Bishop Farrell sent a letter to all parents of Confirmation and First Communion Parents during the past week in which he acknowledged that Confirmation and Communion were rightly on hold for the moment but also invited us to have hope that these days will be celebrated again. We look forward to that day. In the meantime we await the 5th of May when hopefully a clearer path may open up before us. Coincidentally the 5th May is the feast of Blessed Edmund Rice, honoured in Ossory and Waterford and Lismore! Let us pray through his intercession for all who are suffering from the Corona Virus, those who died from it, their families and all who are working to bring an end to the pandemic. Let us pray too for all families, for our elderly and those living alone or in nursing homes, for those caring for loved ones at home, for those who are afraid, for our children and young people. Let us remember our teachers who are working away providing material for children to work on even as they are away from school. Let us pray for those charged with making decisions about the future. Blessed Edmund Rice pray for us.

26<sup>TH</sup> April 2020  
Third Sunday of Easter



## Praying for our Dead Recently Deceased

Thomas (Tom) Frisby,  
Ard Mhuire

Marie Whelan (nee Dunne),  
Waterford and formerly Bellevue

Francis (Francie) Henry  
Hazelwood, Belmont Park, Ferrybank,  
Co. Waterford and late of Clonellan,  
Ballydangan, Athlone, Co.  
Roscommon and Curlea, Curraghboy,  
Athlone, Co. Roscommon.

Bridget O'Brien; Belmont Park,  
Ferrybank, Waterford and formerly of  
13, Congress Villas, Dungarvan, Co.  
Waterford,

## Anniversaries

John Duggan  
(also Birthday Remembrance)  
Eileen Cantwell  
Pat Dunphy

James & Bridget Mylett  
Aidan, Kitty & Jim Cullen  
**May they rest in peace**

## Mass Intentions

Please note that Masses already booked for Ferrybank & Slieverue are being offered and intentions will be remembered at our weekend Mass (only one Mass in our churches each weekend during the restrictions). All of these Masses will be celebrated without a full congregation until further notice.

## Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

Please remember that Baptisms, Weddings & 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.

## Ferrybank & Slieverue 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](mailto:ferrybank@ossory.ie)  
[slieverue@ossory.ie](mailto:slieverue@ossory.ie)

Website [www.ferrybankparish.com](http://www.ferrybankparish.com)

## Ferrybank & Slieverue Parish Contact Details

Very Rev. Kieran O'Shea P.P.  
Tel. 051-832773/051-830813

### House Visitation

Due to the current restrictions Fr. Kieran will not be visiting the sick or housebound parishioners this month. If you need a priest urgently please do contact us.

### 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 Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024. Hours may be extended to meet the demand.

### 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 1800500000

### 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, 087 100 0232.- email [dlp@ossory.ie](mailto:dlp@ossory.ie)

Live & Recorded Masses  
from  
Ferrybank & Slieverue



Please note that during the coming week our Liturgies will be live streamed on our facebook page and available immediately afterwards to watch on our website.

So don't worry if you do not have a facebook account! Just go to the homepage of our website and click on the image under the **Liturgy and Prayer Resources** heading and you can view.

### This coming week

Live streamed and Recorded for Later Viewing

**Morning Mass**  
**Tuesday - Friday 10 am**

**Next Weekend (Sun. 3rd May)**

Sunday Mass 11.30 am

Any changes to this schedule will be placed on the website and facebook page  
Mass is also broadcast on RTE News Now TV at 10.30 am each day  
Pope Francis Daily Mass is broadcast on EWTN & on Vatican Website 6 am  
Irish Time

### Lockdown

by Br Richard Hendrick OFM

Cap.

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of

Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her

number

through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues,

Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be

loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be

meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing, Spring is coming, And we are always encompassed by

Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able to touch across the empty square,

Sing.