

a man who was not wealthy. We also know that he came from the royal lineage of King David. We can see from his actions in scripture that Joseph was a compassionate man, and obedient to the will of God. He also loved Mary and Jesus and wanted to protect and provide for them.

Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph had probably died before Jesus entered public ministry. Joseph is the patron of many things, including the universal Church, fathers, the dying and social justice.

Knock Shrine offers virtual pilgrimages: This year, as we find ourselves in unique and challenging times, pilgrimage Masses will be broadcast online from Knock Basilica every Sunday at 3pm. The schedule for the afternoon will include the praying of the Rosary at 2.30pm, followed by Mass and Benediction at 3pm. The celebrant will be Fr. Richard Gibbons, PP, Rector at Knock Shrine. Daily Masses continue to be broadcast on the Knock Shrine website and Facebook page at 12 Noon and 7.30pm, with Rosary at 7pm. SUNDAY MASS IS BROADCAST AT 12 NOON, ROSARY AT 2.30PM and MASS AT 3PM. For further details, please see www.knockshrine.ie

Next Saturday is 1st May: Why not create A May Altar in your home this month to honour Our Lady? Please send us a picture of your May altar. Email your photos to the parish e-mail stating "**May Altar**" in the subject line of the email. May is also the first month of summer, so it comes to pass that altars which are created during this time are adorned with flowers that bloom at this time of year and with particular prayers, or items of devotion such as rosary beads to decorate this special space and to express our love and honour to Mary. The altar is traditionally dedicated to Mary, the mother of God as May is the Marian month when Catholics give special praise and honour to Jesus' mother Mary, gifted to us as our mother too. **Guidelines and ideas on setting up a May Altar are available on the parish website.**



Birthday Wishes: We congratulate and wish Pope Emeritus Benedict a happy 95th birthday which he celebrated last week. We wish him many more years of health and happiness. Birthday Wishes also to our President Michael D Higgins who celebrated his 80th birthday last Saturday. We wish him many more years of health and happiness. If you have a family member celebrating a significant birthday, do let us know, and we will acknowledge it here.

Readings for next Sunday - 1st May 5th Sunday of Easter

Reading I: Acts 9:26-31 Responsorial Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

Reading II: 1 John 3:18-24 Gospel: John 15:1-8

Mullary Cemetery Draw: Winning #46 - No Winners.



Parish of Monasterboice

(Mainistir Bhuithe)

Fourth Sunday of Easter

25th April 2021 - Year B

Parish Priest: Fr. Paddy Rushe; 086 880 7470

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Web: www.monasterboiceparish.com & We are also on Facebook & Twitter

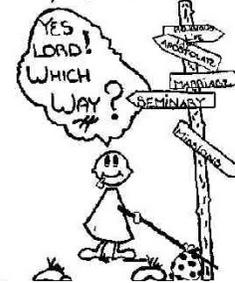
Today is the 58th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day of prayer is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "**Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest**" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood & to consecrated life.

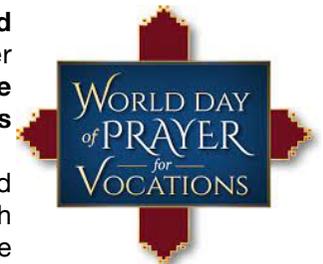
While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (*priesthood and diaconate*), consecrated life in all its forms (*male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity*), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.

Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes. Resources for promoting vocations can be found at www.vocations.ie

COME, FOLLOW ME!



Preparation for a National Synodal Assembly: the Irish Bishops' Conference decided to embark on a synodal pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland leading to the holding of a National Synodal Assembly within the next five years. Synodality is about the whole People of God helping each other listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. Please visit www.catholicbishops.ie for more information.



The Shape of Parish: As we prepare for returning to public worship, Fr. Paddy would like to offer an opportunity for parishioners to engage about what it might mean to come back to Mass, and what effects the Covid pandemic might have as we go forward.

The recently retired Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin spoke about the future of the Irish Church ten years ago at a conference in Cambridge; His speaking notes can be accessed via the news section on our parish website; These words are very relevant - even 10 years into the future; He said; **“the Church in Ireland is facing a real crisis...”; “The abuse scandal has deeply wounded the trust that Irish people had in the Church and it will take much effort to regain the confidence of many, right across the generations...”; “The Catholic Church in Ireland will inevitably become more a minority culture. The challenge is to ensure that it is not an irrelevant minority culture...”;**

What are your thoughts on What it means to be Church, and how we might better be ‘God’s people’, and build The Kingdom in these post-pandemic times. More next week.

Online Ministry: Night Prayer at 10pm on Sunday nights. Rosary from the Kitchen Table on Friday 30th April at 7pm. For the Pastoral Area: visit www.termonfechinparish.ie for Mass daily at 9.30am (Sundays @11am & Togher @10am); RTE News Now @ 10.30am.

Parish Office Hours: The parish office is closed to the public but on Tuesdays from 2.30pm - 5.30pm, Ann McEvoy (087 648 6809) will be able to take phone calls, and answer emails about parish business, eg certificates, bookings, etc.

Finance: Fr. Paddy & The Parish Finance Committee Thank you for supporting your parish in these difficult times. Please consider moving to online donations? The parish details; **BIC: AIBKIE2D and IBAN: IE68 AIBK 9320 9421 7710 85;** using your Envelope#/Surname as reference. Donations also via www.armagharchdiocese.org

Parish Works: Following our Parish Finance Committee Zoom on Monday 12th April, the Committee accepted recommendations for some essential & necessary upgrading and repair works in both Churches and the Parochial House at Tenure. We are liaising with the Archdiocese Buildings & Finance Committees regarding these works, and we will be planning some fundraising at parish level. We will communicate with you further regarding this in coming weeks. **As always, your support is greatly appreciated.**



Remembering the Deceased: Please pray for those on the parish list of the dead, for deceased benefactors of the parish, & those who have died recently;

NB ALL Masses can be accessed via www.churchservices.tv/monasterboice	
Day\Mass	Intention
Saturday 24th @ 6.30pm (Tenure)	Kevin Martin (7th Av.) Patrick McCabe, Jean O'Rourke & Ethna Tuite (Birthday Remembrances in April) Declan McKeown Av. (Downpatrick)
Tuesday 27th @ 9.30am	(Tenure) Louis Duffin (11th Av.)
Wed. 28th @ 9.30am	(F/Town) Special Intention (Deceased) 1
Friday 30th @ 8pm	(Tenure) Andrew Sheeran (11th Av.)
Saturday 1st May @ 6.30pm (F/Town)	Fintan Murphy, Kellystown (20th Av.)

Elizabeth Kelly, Ardee; Lynne Brennan, Stonehouse; Mike McGuire, Co. Kildare; John McGowan, Co. Sligo; Flora Nugent, Limerick; Vivienne McGirr, Ballyholey, Raphoe, formerly of Drogheda; If a family member outside the parish has died, let us know, so that we can include them in our prayers here.

Act of Spiritual Communion: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there & unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.



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Preparation for Sacraments: continues in our schools, even though we have no set dates, we’re hopeful that both Holy Communion & Confirmation will be administered before end of the school year. Meanwhile it is important to continue to prepare. Fr. Paddy & Patrick Logue have held online meetings with parents, and also regularly online with the boys & girls & their teachers in class. We also pray for our children & their families in the lead up to the Sacraments.

St Joseph the workers Feast Day 1st May: St. Joseph has two feast days on the liturgical calendar. The first is March 19—Joseph, the Husband of Mary. The second is May 1st Joseph, the Worker. **“Saint Joseph is a man of great spirit. He is great in faith, not because he speaks his own words, but above all because he listens to the words of the Living God. He listens in silence and his heart ceaselessly perseveres in the readiness to accept the truth contained in the word of the Living God.” Pope John Paul II had once said.**

There is very little about the life of Joseph in Scripture but still, we know that he was the chaste husband of Mary, the foster father of Jesus, a carpenter and