

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

Faithfest - Powered By The Spirit: Calling all teenagers! Join us for an evening of games, music, workshop, chats and prayer. Faithfest will take place 21st May from 6:30 – 8:30 online. You can register online at Archdiocese of Dublin → upcoming youth events. Registration closes on the 13th May at 5pm. For more information email: st.pauls@dublindiocese.ie

We are on the Way: A large number of Parishioners here in Monasterboice have now received at least their first dose of the Covid 19 Vaccine. It is safe to say they are over the moon and in some cases a few fences as well. The sheer delight on their faces makes us all long to be vaccinated in the very near future, when we can all be together again. Congratulations to you all.

The return to Public Worship in the Republic of Ireland: Archbishop Eamon wrote to us on Friday 30th April, saying; “I welcome an Taoiseach’s announcement, which means that people can begin to safely return to Mass & the sacraments. It appears at this stage that there is a cap of **50** people permitted to attend. Further clarity on this will be sought in coming days.



I wish to emphasise the need for continued caution and a rigorous application of all mitigations and safeguards required to ensure the safest possible return to public worship in our Churches, which should only begin again after a thorough risk assessment in consultation with parish Covid-19 Support Teams **I wish also to advise the faithful that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended at this time and every person should consider carefully if returning to collective worship is the safe and appropriate step for them at this time.** Please continue therefore to encourage participation, where possible, by way of live-streaming.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to you and to parish teams - incl. caretakers, stewards and cleaners - who generously ensure that our churches are safe environments where people can confidently assemble for worship. Your collective task is not an easy one & I appeal, through you, to all the faithful to cooperate fully as we begin our return to public worship. With continued good wishes & blessings in this Easter season”. **+Eamon**

Readings for next Sunday 9th May - 6th Sunday of Easter

Reading I: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 Responsorial Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

Reading II: 1 John 4:7-10 Gospel: John 15:9-17

Mullary Cemetery Draw: Winning #14 - Noel Byrne; Mary Gallagher.



Parish of Monasterboice

(Mainistir Bhuithe)

Fifth Sunday of Easter

2nd May 2021 - Year B

Parish Priest: Fr. Paddy Rushe; 086 880 7470

monasterboiceparish2018@gmail.com

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

This Sunday: Today’s reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus’ discourse at the Last Supper, which begins with Jesus washing his disciples’ feet. Jesus then provides them with a series of instructions.

In these chapters Jesus instructs his disciples about the importance of following his example of love and service, about the gift they will receive when Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, and about their relationship with Jesus and with the world. The Last Supper discourse concludes with Jesus’ prayer for his disciples.

Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures, where Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John’s Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfillment of God’s promises to Israel. In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began. Similarly, Jesus’ presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began.



Eucharistic Sunday Devotions: 7pm, on Sunday 2nd May, 1st Sunday. There will be May Devotions each Sunday in alternating Churches. This week, Fieldstown, next week, Tenure, etc. Up to 50 parishioners can attend on & after 16th May

Baptisms are now able to take place, but with caution regarding numbers, & providing all attending observe social distancing, hand hygiene & wear masks. Pls contact the office/Fr. Paddy.



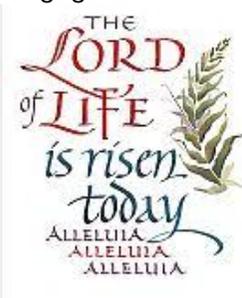
The Shape of Parish: What are your thoughts on What it means to be Church, and how we might better be ‘God’s people’, & build The Kingdom in these post-pandemic times.

Amazingly after many decades of Catholic education, there are still many parishioners who struggle to know what their faith says about a particular topic, and to understand it. This is especially true about topics such as Sexuality and Morality. While there are a huge number of resources available for faith formation individually, or as a family, we must be careful to avoid extremes, and follow only reliable sources;

Thomas Groome is a world-renowned authority on religious education, in his book, **“What makes us Catholic”** he asks Who do we think we are? In what will we invest? What is our heart’s desire? The answers to these & five other basic questions, for Groome, are **“gifts for life”**.

He goes further - saying that while the Church provides a space where we are nourished and guided, prayed with and prayed for, encouraged and corrected, it needs to examine whether its purpose and mission are being fully realized. According to Groome, **“Religion that does not nurture people’s spirituality is as dead as a doornail”** (p. 273).

As we prepare, Fr. Paddy would like to offer an opportunity for parishioners to engage about what it might mean to come back to Mass, & what effects the



Covid pandemic might have. Fr. Paddy will lead a Zoom Meeting on **‘The Shape of Parish’** on Sunday 9th May at 4pm. **More details next week.**

Preparation for a National Synodal Asembly: the Irish Bishops’ Conference decided to hold this Assembly within the next 5 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.

Online Ministry: Night Prayer at 10pm on Sunday nights. Rosary from the Kitchen Table on Monday 3rd May 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.

Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion & Confirmation: We pray for our children & their families in the lead up to the Sacraments, but following the Government announcement last Thursday, 29th, we can confirm that these will **NOT** be held during May. It is still our intention to celebrate these special moments before the school year ends. As we did last year, we will have multiple celebrations with small numbers from each family attending.

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 1st May @ 6.30pm (F/Town)	Fintan Murphy, Kellystown (20th Av.)
Tuesday 4th @ 9.30am	(Tenure) Jim Dunne (Av) Don McCullough, Gerard McKenna (Av.)
Wed. 5th @ 9.30am	(F/Town) Special Intention (Deceased) 2
Friday 7th @ 8pm	(Tenure) -
Saturday 8th May @ 6.30pm	(Tenure) Peg & Jack Crilly (Av.) Patsy Morgan (1st Av.)

Elizabeth Kelly, Ardee; Lynne Brennan, Stonehouse;; If a family member outside the parish has died, let us know, & we can include them in our prayers.

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.



Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage: As we will not be travelling to Lourdes this year the following programme will be broadcast from our Pilgrimage Facebook Page; **Armagh Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.** All Masses during the Virtual Pilgrimage will be offered up for those who have travelled throughout the years and for all our deceased pilgrims and volunteers. A dedicated email armagh Lourdes petitions 2021@gmail.com (NB this account will be deleted after the 12th May 2021) has been set up Please send in petitions which will then be printed off & placed in front of the Altar.

Pope Francis initiates a month of prayer in May for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic: The Holy Father is inviting the Catholic World to join him, through the Marian Sanctuaries across the globe, during the month of May, to pray for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. The date of 10 May 2021 has been assigned to Ireland for the leading of prayers at the International Marian Shrine at Knock. On that date we are especially asked to remember all people with disabilities.

Vocations: On Wednesday, 28th April, Bishop Michael Router conferred the ministry of Acolyte on Francesco Campiello, Gabriel Neal, Jacek Tuskiewicz, seminarians of the Archdiocese of Armagh who are receiving their formation at the Redemptoris Mater Seminary (www.redmatarmagh.org). Francesco, Gabriel and Jacek are completing the last year of the Theology programme. Please keep our seminarians in your prayers.

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.