

with you always". He says this to you, and he says it to me. That is the meaning of this Day, which I wanted to celebrate for the first time in this particular year, as a long period of isolation ends and social life slowly resumes. May every grandfather, every grandmother, every older person, especially those among us who are most alone, receive the visit of an angel!

At times those angels will have the face of our grandchildren, at others, the face of family members, lifelong friends or those we have come to know during these trying times, when we have learned how important hugs & visits are for each of us. How sad that in some places these are still not possible!

The Lord, however, also sends us messengers through his words, which are always at hand. Let us try to read a page of the Gospel every day, to pray with the psalms, to read the prophets! We will be comforted by the Lord's faithfulness. The Scriptures will also help us to understand what the Lord is asking of our lives today. For at every hour of the day (cf. Mt 20:1-16) and in every season of life, he continues to send labourers into his vineyard. I was called to become the Bishop of Rome when I had reached, so to speak, retirement age and thought I would not be doing anything new. The Lord is always – always – close to us. He is close to us with new possibilities, new ideas, new consolations, but always close to us. You know that the Lord is eternal; he never, ever goes into retirement.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (28:19-20). These words are also addressed to us today. They help us better understand that our vocation is to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones. Think about it: what is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.

PRAYER: *I thank You, Lord, for the comfort of Your presence: even in times of loneliness, You are my hope and my confidence, You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth! I thank You for having given me a family and for having blessed me with a long life.*

I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty, for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for those that are still ahead of me. I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You call me. Increase, O Lord, my faith, make me a channel of your peace, teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me, to never stop dreaming & tell of your wonders to new generations.

Protect & guide Pope Francis and the Church, that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth. Send Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world, that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed, the poor consoled & wars ended. Sustain me in weakness & help me to live life fully in each moment that you give me, in the certainty that you're with me, until the end of the age. Amen.



Parish of Monasterboice

(Mainistir Bhuithe)

Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

18th July 2021 - Year B

Parish Priest: *Fr. Paddy Rushe; 086 880 7470*

monasterboiceparish2018@gmail.com

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

Pastoral Area: Along with Termonfechin (*Fr Paul Byrne 98 22121*), Clogherhead (*Fr Martin McVeigh 98 22224*), & Togher (*Monsignor Jim Carroll 98 89335*), our Parish is part of the St. Colmcille's Pastoral Area.

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.

Other Liturgies & Sacraments: Baptisms are still taking place, **but** with caution regarding numbers, & providing all attending observe social distancing, hand hygiene & wear masks. **Pls contact the office/Fr. Paddy.** For Funerals only 50 mourners are permitted in Church for the Funeral Mass, and no gathering of mourners outside on Church grounds; For Weddings, only 50 guests in the Church for the Mass/Ceremony. Confessions are available after any Mass, and upon request.

Finance: **Your donations in last week IN CHURCH have amounted to €780.** Thank you also to the many who have transferred their donations to ONLINE banking, amounting to approx €500 per week. The parish details for online donations; **BIC: AIBKIE2D and IBAN: IE68 AIBK 9320 9421 7710 85;** use your Envelope#/Surname as reference. Or via www.armagharchdiocese.org



St. Josephs Young Priests Society: exists to help students on their journey to priesthood. It fosters vocations to the priesthood & religious life. It assists students for the priesthood financially & by prayer. It promotes the vocation of the laity and fosters a greater understanding & love of the Eucharist and Holy Mass. To support this worthy organisation, with its beginnings by Galway born Olivia Mary Taaffe who in 1867 married John Taaffe and lived in Co. Louth. please feel free to leave an envelope **FAO St. Josephs Young Priests Society** in the weekly collection basket. They produce a monthly newsletter called **The Sheaf**. We had a very active local group here, and we still say the prayer for Vocations at each Mass. www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.ie

