

Ferbane Parish Bulletin

Sunday 25th April 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, FERBANE

Sunday 25th April

- 11am
1. Patricia Fleming (*Months Mind*).
 2. Michael & Mary Conway.
 3. Kevin & Stephen Heffernan.
 4. Pdraig Foley, mother Tess, father Patrick and Willie Hoctor.

Mon. 26th: 10am

Tues. 27th: 10am - People's Mass.

Wed. 28th: 10am - Bernard Minnock (1st A).

Thurs. 29th: 10am

Fri. 30th: 10am

Sat. 1st May: 10am - Bernie Guinan (Months Mind).

Sunday 2nd May

- 11am
1. Donal Hynes (*Months Mind*).
 2. Paul McDonnell (*1st A*).
 3. Noel Coughlan (*1st A*).
 4. Bridget & Thomas Farrell, Jimmy & Paddy Farrell and Baby Patrick Farrell.
 5. Bernard Guinan, his wife Margaret and their son Kieran, Bernard's brother Jack and deceased members of the Guinan & McLoughlin families, Moystown Demesne.
 6. Brid, Evelyn, Peter, Noel & Vincent Usher.

PARISH OFFICE - Wednesday from 9am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm. Bulletin deadline is 3pm on Wednesday. Tel: 090 6454309 or Email: parishoffice@ferbaneparish.ie.

MASSES - All ceremonies can be heard on 106.5FM Parish Radio.

All our Weekday and Weekend Masses can now be viewed on our new live stream link www.ferbaneparish.ie. Also our Parish bulletin is available to view on www.ferbaneparish.ie.

COLLECTIONS - Offertory and Shrine = €1,925. We deeply appreciate your continuing generosity at this difficult time. If you wish to offer financial support to the Church by electronic transfer our bank details are as follows:- BIC: ULSB IE 2D. IBAN: IE28 ULSB 9857 2021 5400 50. Please note your box number or your name when transferring money. Mile buíochas.

INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL ALIENATION AWARENESS DAY Sunday 25th April - This day highlights a particular form of domestic abuse that takes place when one parent tries to distance his or her children, without reason or justification, from the other parent when a marriage or relationship ends. Such a denial of the rights of children to have a loving relationship with both parents has long-lasting and damaging consequences for a child. For more information about the issue log on to www.alienated.ie.

GALLEN UNITED - *Lotto Draw* (Prize fund €17,600 = Jackpot €7,600; Star Prize €10,000). Winning numbers in last week's draw 2, 6, 7, 17. Bonus 11. No jackpot winner. Three match 3 winners. Next draw on Monday 26th April.

FERBANE G.A.A. - *Lotto*: Winning numbers in last week's draw 10, 22, 29, 31. Bonus 16. No jackpot winner. Two match 3 winners. Next draw on Tuesday 27th April at 10pm. Jackpot €14,600.

BELMONT GAA - Are delighted to announce that we are commencing **Online Bingo for Belmont Hurling and Camogie on Friday 30th April at 7.30pm**. Please see our social media accounts for further information. Your support is greatly appreciated.

SVP - Confidential helpline 087 9272877.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Vocations Sunday

Eucharist and priesthood were born in the Upper Room in Jerusalem on Holy Thursday night. The two gifts are inextricably linked. Without priests we are deprived of the nourishment of the Eucharist. This fact should give us pause for thought on Vocations Sunday. Vocation to priesthood is a gift from God, but grows and is nurtured within family and community. Without support, encouragement and even invitation, the call will wither and die. 'It takes a village to raise a child', according to the African proverb. We might well say that it takes a community to make a priest. The eternally challenging words of Pope St. Paul VI come to mind here: **'Every generation gets the vocations it deserves'**. This day, of course, has a wider reach. It is a day for all the baptised. The mission of the Church is the mission of all. When someone utters the words, 'I am on a mission', you know that he/she is embarked on a task that is important and urgent. The mission of all in the Church family is nothing less than making the Lord's word heard and His face visible. There is no more privileged, more important or more urgent work than that. Since lay people form the majority of the Church family, their role in this work is critical. They accomplish this work most effectively through the general witness of their daily lives. **Holiness in the family and in the workplace takes on a very ordinary appearance**. Laity, not clergy, are the most important people in the Church. They hold the key to the future. The ministry of priests and religious will be centred on supporting the mission of the laity.

St. Joseph - A model for Vocations Sunday

St. Joseph is an extraordinary figure, yet at the same time one 'so close to our own human experience'. He did not do astonishing things, he had no unique charisms, nor did he appear special in the eyes of those who met him.

He was not famous or even noteworthy: the Gospels do not report even a single word of his. Still through his ordinary life, he accomplished something extraordinary in the eyes of God'.

(Pope Francis).

Letter from An Taoiseach

I am writing to you concerning the current restriction on public worship arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

When I met some of you late last year, there was shared understanding amongst all of us, in line with public health advice, that at level 5, public worship had to be restricted to protect the public. All along, in the management of the response to the pandemic, Government has been motivated by the need to protect life and health. We clearly recognise the value of, and the right to public worship. Emergency legislation has, from the outset of the crisis, impinged on a wide range of personal liberties, but has done so for the common good.

I fully appreciate the difficulties people of faith face when they are unable to attend religious services or have numbers at funeral and weddings restricted. I met with religious leaders prior to Christmas and heard your concerns. We took them on board and took steps to facilitate religious services at Christmas time.

I fully acknowledge the concerns of faith leaders and share your wish for a safe return to public worship. It was for this reason that Government has already indicated that we would review the recommencement of public worship, along with a number of other sectors from 4th May. The extent of that recommencement will be informed by public health advice. I can assure you that the Government, when it meets next week, will give careful and positive consideration to reopening Places of Worship in May. From Monday the numbers who can attend funeral services increases from 10 to 25, as requested by faith leaders, and it is my hope that the increase, though small, will make a significant difference to those suffering bereavement at this time.

I recognise the importance of faith and of communal worship in people's lives. I commend the vital role that faith leaders have played in supporting people and giving hope at this time of stress and worry - reaching out to those who may feel isolated or marginalised.

When Places of Worship last reopened you had very comprehensive measures in place to ensure the health and safety of your communities and I commend you for this. These measures will be as important as ever as we move to the next phase.

As we look forward to the gradual reopening of society, when the prevailing public health conditions allow, I wish you and your communities a safe return to worship.

Micheál Martin, T.D.
Taoiseach