

MONKSTOWN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

Week Beginning Sunday 11th May

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Office T: (01) 538 2542
(Mon - Fri 9am – 12:30 pm)

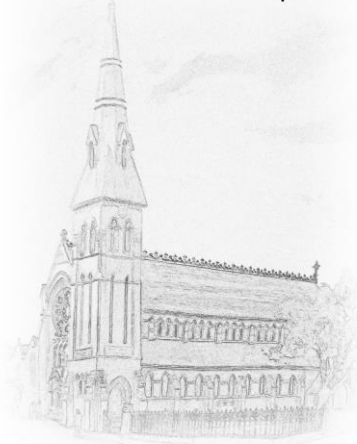
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SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS

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Mass Times

Weekdays (Mon – Fri) @ 10 AM
Saturday Vigil Mass @ 6 PM
Sunday: 10 AM & 11:30 AM

Baptism

Normally on 2nd and 4th Sundays
of the month at 12.30pm.
Enquiries to the parish office.

For a full list of parish
notices visit
monkstownparish.ie
Or scan the QR Code



ANNIVERSARIES

We remember in our prayer at mass this weekend the following whose anniversaries and month's mind occur at this time:

Saturday 6 pm

- **Ann Burns Sheils** (A)
- **Peter Burns** (A)

Sunday 11:30

- **Mary Banotti** (1st A)
- **Jacqueline O'Mahony** (1stA)
- **Thomas Smith** (A)

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our faith community:

- Isabelle Molloy
- Liam O'Reilly
- Conor McDermott



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Please keep in your prayers the children from Monkstown Park Junior School who will celebrate their First Holy Communion here in St. Patrick's on Sunday **18th May @ 10 am.**

ST THÉRÈSE OF LISEAUX

As part of the Centenary Celebrations of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux's Canonisation, the Avila Carmelite Centre (Bloomfield Ave, Donnybrook, Dublin 4) are holding a very special Day on Saturday 17th May from 2.30 - 5pm. They will have the Relics of St Therese & Her Parents St Louis & St Zelig Martin along with a unique Exhibition of historical items from the life of St Therese and The Martin Family. More details can be found on our parish website (monkstownparish.ie). Entry is FREE

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

This Sunday (11th May) the Fourth Sunday of Easter, is known as Good Shepherd Sunday and is dedicated by the Church as the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**, when we pray for and promote vocations to the priesthood, Diaconate and Religious life.

ROSE WINDOW REPAIR

We have been informed that the new scaffolding to facilitate the repair of the Rose Window should be erected this week and hopefully the specialist stonemasons can start the week commencing 19th May.

NEW TAP MACHINES

The Diocese have installed new card payment Terminals (Tap Machines) in the Church. When you 'Tap' you now get the opportunity to put in your name, telephone number or email address. Whilst all donations go directly to the Diocese, by entering your personal details, this enables the parish to claim the tax back for all combined donations over €250 over the year. We encourage parishioners to choose a quiet day when the church is not busy to insert their contact details.

LAY MINISTRY APPEAL

Next weekend (17/18 May) the share collection will be replayed by a special collection to support the growth of Lay Ministry in our Diocese.

PARISH LOTTO

Mary Briscoe is the winner of this week's lotto draw. The jackpot has still to be won.

FREE BIODIVERSITY WORKSHOP – FOXROCK 16 MAY 7PM

Foxrock Parish are hosting a Biodiversity Workshop **"Make Your Garden into a Nature Reserve"** with Ecologist **Donna Mullen** on May 16th from 7 pm to 8:30 pm in the Foxrock Parish Centre. You can reserve a place for this free event by either contacting the Foxrock Parish Office (01) 289 3492 or online via Eventbrite by scanning the QR Code



**Commentary on the readings
for the Fourth Sunday of Easter
(Vocations Sunday)**

*Acts 13:14, 43-52; Psalm 99;
Revelations 7:9, 14-17; & John 10:27-30*

In today's first reading we see Saints Paul and Barnabas teaching the people about God after they themselves had faithfully attended the synagogue. Some of the Jews however, are not happy with their presence and their teaching and so they have them driven from the synagogue.

No longer welcome, the two apostles turn to the pagans and proclaim the Good News to them and the pagans happily receive the word and become believers. In the second reading we read that the Lamb of Sacrifice, who is Christ, will shepherd his people and he will lead them to living water. Those who have been redeemed by him now sing his praises in his presence in the kingdom.

This theme of shepherding is found in the gospel in which Christ tells his followers that those who listen to him and follow his word will receive eternal life from him. No one else can give us eternal life no matter what they say and only those who believe in Christ as their Lord and God can receive this most precious of gifts.

This gift is ours if we have the courage to teach like Paul and Barnabas in the first reading, even if that means making ourselves outcasts in the eyes of the world.

*The Introduction to the readings above are
from the Irish Province of the Carmelites.
www.Carmelites.ie*

FEASTDAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 12th -St. Nereus & St. Achilleus
Wed 14th – **St Matthias, Apostle**
Fri 16th – St. Brendan, Abbot

**Fr Kevin's Reflection for the
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Sheperd Sunday
(Vocations Sunday)**



I was asked to conduct the funeral of a woman I did not know very well but whose family lived in the parish. The woman, who was in her seventies, suffered from a particularly painful wasting disease. The pain became so great that one night she stepped out of bed, put on slippers and a dressing gown, let herself into the back garden, walked into the local lake, and drowned herself.

I visited and listened to her husband tell the story. At the funeral I talked about the things “we knew and the things we didn't know . . . We didn't know what anguish was going through her mind, but we did know how deeply she was loved and will be missed. We didn't know what could bring her to such despair, but we did know that her life was beautiful and that those who knew her loved her and would always cherish what she meant to them.”

A month after the funeral, I visited the widower to see how he was doing. I half expected the usual conversation about the funeral and how the family appreciated what the parish had done for the family — maybe even say how well I had spoken, given the circumstances. But that's not how the conversation went. The widower looked straight at me, head still and eyes unblinking, and said, “What you said was completely wrong. You said, ‘We don't know what was going through her head when she got out of bed and walked down to the lake.’ That's not true. I know exactly what she was thinking. She'd tried before, and afterwards she told me what it was like. I know what she was thinking. I told you that when you came to see me last time. But you weren't listening, were you? Maybe you didn't want to listen.” The man's tone was more weary than angry, as if I was just one of a series of people who hadn't really listened, either to his wife or to him.

What I learned that day has stayed with me for the rest of my life as priest.

My role is not to make things better, because that leaves the person more isolated than before. Instead, my role is to stand beside them as they face the hardest things in their life, one of which may turn out to be their fear that they could get to such an isolated place that they might consider something awful and destructive. If it's awful, I don't say, ‘Maybe it's not so bad’; I say, ‘It seems very painful. I wonder which the hardest part is. Maybe you can try to put it into words so I can share the thing that's giving you so much pain to be thinking about on your own.’

If you have a choice between giving someone false hope and giving them the truth, always give them the truth. Once they realize the hope is false, they'll be worse off than before. But if they can name and face the truth — and find that they're still here and they haven't scared you away — then they may learn the path to life: if we stay with the truth and walk through it, then we can come out the other side and find we're still alive. If they do that, they're on the other side of hell, and hell can't hurt them in the same way as before.”

That for me this is the role of “shepherding” that Jesus calls each one of us to take on: to walk and lead one another through the steep paths and dangerous ridges we all must walk, not diminishing the danger or pain but helping one another make our way through it. The challenge of taking up the Good Shepherd's staff is to face the truth despite our own fears, to search for God's light, even if it is only a flicker, in the midst of overwhelming darkness, to reach out to grab another despite our own tenuous grasp. In our own acts of generosity, love and forgiveness, we echo and give voice to the Risen Christ and the good news of hope and grace that is Easter resurrection.