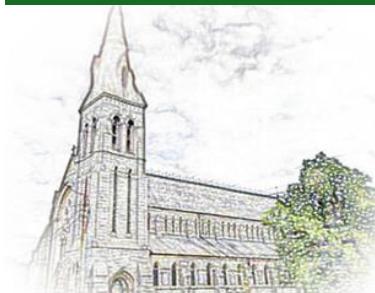


NEWSLETTER - Commencing Sunday 8th February

Week 5 in Ordinary Time



MONKSTOWN (Church of St. Patrick)

Mon – Fri @ 10 am
Sat Vigil 6 pm Sun 10 & 11:30
Web: monkstownparish.ie

Parish Secretary: Ann Acres
T: (01) 538 2542
E: secretary@monkstownparish.ie

Sacristan: Ciarán Ryan

Parish Priest: Fr Kevin
Mobile: 087 224 2230
E: revkevmonkstown1@gmail.com

Deacon: Rev. Eric Cooney
Mobile: 087 668 3499
E: eric.g.cooney@gmail.com

Safeguarding
Alice O'Connell & Denise
Beardmore
T: (01) 538 2542
E: CP@monkstownparish.ie

PARTNERSHIP PARISHES

KILL O' THE GRANGE (Holy Family)

Mon – Sat @ 10 am
Sat Vigil 5 pm Sun 10 & 12
Web: www.holyfamilyparish.ie
Parish Office Tel: (01) 284 5299
Email: admin@holyfamily.ie

BLACKROCK

(St. John the Baptist)

Mon – Fri @ 1:05 pm
Sat Vigil 6:30 pm Sun 10 & 12
Web: www.sjb.ie
Parish Office Tel: (01) 288 2104
Email: office@sjb.ie

NEWTOWNPARK (Guardian Angels)

Mon – Sat @ 10 am
Sun 9:30 10:45 & 12 noon
www.newtownparkparish.com
Parish Office Tel: (01) 283 2988
E: parishoffice@newtownparkparish.com

FOXROCK

(Our Lady of Perpetual Succor)

Mon, Tue, Thurs & Fri @ 10 am
Sat Vigil 6 pm Sun 10 & 11:30
Web: www.foxrockparish.ie
Parish Office Tel: (01) 289 3492
Email: secretary@foxrockparish.ie

Mass Intentions

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

- **Jim McAteer (A)**
- **Garry Fleming (1st A)**
- **Josephine Collins (A)**
- **John Healy (1st A)**
- **Carmel Murphy (A)**
- **Ann Brady (A)**
- **Moya Quinlan (A)**
- **Kit Peterson (A)**
- **Nuala Tierney (A)**



Totus Tuus 2026 Fatima Pilgrimage



The Totus Tuus annual pilgrimage to Fatima will take place from 28th August to 4th September. The cost is €915 which includes, flights, half board accommodation, airport transfers, day trip to Balasar, trip to Valinhos and Adjustrel, trip to the Irish Dominican Sisters' Convent. For more information call Damien on 087 20 49 048

FAREWELL TO CANON ROY BYRNE RECTOR – MONKSTOWN PARISH (C of I)



Having served as Rector of the Church of Ireland in Monkstown for the last ten years with great enthusiasm, energy and empathy, Canon Roy Byrne is leaving the parish and taking up the position of Precentor and Deputy Dean of Christ Church Cathedral at the end of February 2026. To mark his leaving the Church of Ireland parish are holding an Afternoon Tea Party on Saturday 14th February in the Schoolhouse from 3.00p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

All are most welcome to come along. At this gathering we will be making a presentation to Roy on behalf of the parish. For catering purposes, it is essential that they know in advance who plans to attend. If you would like to attend please contact Liz Neill-Watson in their parish office: Ph. 087 3839968
E-Mail: Monkstownparish@hotmail.com

Relationship Care

Annual Collection 14/15 Feb

The annual collection for **Relationship Care** which is the new name for **ACCORD Dublin**, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, takes place on St Valentine's Weekend, February 14/15. It will replace the Share collection at Masses.



Fr Kevin's Reflection
for the
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Commentary on the readings

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 58:7-10;

In this Sunday's first reading the Prophet Isaiah gives us a few simple instructions on how to live our lives, particularly where the poor are concerned. He talks about light shining out for others to brighten their lives.

Matthew 5:13-16

Continuing the theme of light, Jesus tells his disciples that they are the light of the world, but he warns them to be careful about that. They are to preach openly and are not to keep to themselves what they have seen and heard. We are the successors of the apostles, we are the modern day heralds of the gospel and we too have a duty to make that message known to all whom we meet.

1Corinthians 2:1-5;

St Paul reminds the Corinthians in the second reading that he was no great orator but that what he preached came from his own faith in God.

Psalm 111;

The Response to the Psalm is:

***The good man
is a light in the darkness
for the upright***

"In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men"

She was training to be a hospital chaplain. She had been a teacher in an inner-city school and saw hospital work as a better way of helping people in trouble.

On her first day she met the mother of a teenager, Sean, who'd been shot in the back of the head and was unconscious. The mother asked the inexperienced chaplain if she had children of her own. No, she said, feeling a little ashamed.

She sat with the mother for what seemed like an eternity. She remembers:

"I started to wonder what I could do for the mother. I could've stayed and tried to fix things, telling her that God was working a purpose out. Or something cheesy like, God needs Sean up there. I didn't know Sean.

"I could have left the room, giving the mother time to be alone with her son. That would've been easy. I could have left the image of tubes, breathing machines, and loss behind.

"There was a third option: staying and being. This meant I needed to sit with my own fears of losing a family member, and sit with the fear that as a childless chaplain I was inadequate.

"So I stayed with the mother and said, 'This has to be so hard.' She looked to her son and she cried and I did not leave. I did not leave, and I was uncomfortable.

"There was nothing I could do but be with the uncomfortable feelings and believe God was present in that space. In a space that was very close to the ground, very unadorned."

"An unadorned space" . . . and the temptation always is, as the chaplain admits, to "adorn" it with cheerfulness or hope. But healing depends on truth. To be "salt" and "light" for such "unadorned spaces" means putting aside our unease at being in situations we cannot control and taking on what makes us uncomfortable and facing what is difficult and painful. Being salt and light often means just being there for someone else in those dark times and terrifying places. Despite our fear of saying something wrong or making matters worse, our quiet presence assures them that they are not alone.

Ordinary people challenged to extraordinary things - that's what Jesus calls his followers - and us - to do in today's Gospel. When Jesus tells us that we are to be "salt for the earth," he calls us to bring his compassion, justice and forgiveness into our homes, workplaces, schools and communities; our simplest acts of charity can be a "light" for our world and unmistakable evidence of the presence of God among us. That's why we're here, in this church, part of this community: to be "salt" for the earth, to make God's presence and grace realities in our own time and place; to be "light" for the world, illuminating the dark, hopeless corners of society with hope and peace.

As this chaplain comes to realize, God is present in our simplest, quietest, most "unadorned" efforts to be the "salt" and "light" of the Gospel.