

# NEWSLETTER

Commencing Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Week 6 in Ordinary Time



## MONKSTOWN (Church of St. Patrick)

Mon – Fri @ 10 am  
Sat Vigil 6 pm Sun 10 & 11:30  
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## PARTNERSHIP PARISHES

### KILL O' THE GRANGE (Holy Family)

Mon – Sat @ 10 am  
Sat Vigil 5 pm Sun 10 & 12  
Web: [www.holyfamilyparish.ie](http://www.holyfamilyparish.ie)  
Parish Office Tel: (01) 284 5299  
Email: [admin@holyfamily.ie](mailto: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](http://www.sjb.ie)  
Parish Office Tel: (01) 288 2104  
Email: [office@sjb.ie](mailto:office@sjb.ie)

**NEWTOWNPARK**  
(Guardian Angels)  
Mon – Sat @ 10 am  
Sun 9:30 10:45 & 12 noon  
[www.newtownparkparish.com](http://www.newtownparkparish.com)  
Parish Office Tel: (01) 283 2988  
E: [parishoffice@newtownparkparish.com](mailto: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](http://www.foxrockparish.ie)  
Parish Office Tel: (01) 289 3492  
Email: [secretary@foxrockparish.ie](mailto: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:



- **Babette Kelly (A)**
- **Edward Marah (A)**
- **Moya Quinlan (A)**
- **Deirdre Fahy (Month's Mind)**
- **Kathy Colgan (A)**

## Recently Deceased

- **Mary Grant**
- **Louise Connolly**

## 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, will be taken up this weekend (14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup>). It will replace the Share collection at Masses.

Our local St. Vincent de Paul conference will take up their monthly church collection after all masses next weekend. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.



## Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo,

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, **08<sup>th</sup> March 2026. €699 pps.** Price includes return train, **5 nights in 4\*** **Castlecourt Hotel**, with Dinner and B&B. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 094 900 6426 or 087 1890 236 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

## LENT & ASH WEDNESDAY

The Season of Lent begins this Wednesday, 18 February.



Lent invites us into a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for the joy of Easter. **Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence.**

As we receive ashes, we begin forty days of turning back to God—reflecting on our lives, renewing our relationships with God, with one another, and with ourselves.

This Lent, consider making meaningful choices in prayer, fasting, and charity. Choose practices that open your heart to God and others, and that deepen the hope and strength our faith offers—a hope we are called to share with the world.

## Holy Hour

### to pray for Victims & Survivors of abuse



**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> 7 pm**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February (**First Friday of Lent**) is the world day of prayer for Victims and survivors of abuse. Parishes are asked to set aside time of prayer for victims and survivors.

To facilitate this in Monkstown, Deacon Eric will lead a guided Holy Hour from 7pm to 8 pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Trócaire

TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD

Lenten Boxes for Trócaire are available on the tables at the back of the Church. One of the pillars of Lent is the giving of Alms. The Trócaire box has long been a great way to remember our sisters and brothers in need throughout the holy season of Lent. Please take home a Trócaire box for Lent and give it a prominent place somewhere in the home.



Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. . . .



You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; but I say this to you

## Commentary on the readings for the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

### *Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20;*

The first reading this week comes from the Book of Ecclesiasticus and tells us that God knows all that we do and that he has never told anyone to do that which is wrong. We are also reminded that it is within our power to keep the commandments.

### *Matthew 5:17-37*

The gospel passage from St Matthew sees Jesus commenting on the Law as the Jews had it and telling them that they have gone astray in their observance of it. We can only gain eternal life if we take on board the true message and wisdom of Christ and live that out in our daily lives.

### *1Corinthians 2:6-10;*

The second reading from the first letter to the Corinthians tells us that there is wisdom or knowledge available to us in order for us to gain eternal life. This is not earthly wisdom but a wisdom which was worked out before the ages began and is a simple but powerful one.

### *Psalm 118;*

The Response to the Psalm is:

***They are happy  
who follow God's law!***

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, You have drawn near to me in this Holy Communion, touching what is fragile and healing what is wounded. As You once stretched out Your hand to the leper, stretch out Your mercy over my life today.

Cleanse my heart of all that keeps me distant from You. Renew in me the joy of being Your disciple. Make me a sign of Your compassion for those who feel forgotten, unworthy, or alone. Remain with me, Lord, that I may carry Your presence into the week ahead with a grateful heart and a willing spirit. Amen

## Fr Kevin's Reflection for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

It was the first day on the job for the new, young optometrist. The boss, the head optician, was explaining how the office worked. "When customers come in for a pair of glasses, first you examine them. Then you show them some frames."

"But there are no prices on the frames," said the new optometrist.

"Exactly," said the boss. "When customers find some frames they like, they'll ask you how much the frames cost. You say €200.' Then you wait a minute. If there's no objection, you add, 'And the lenses, of course, are €150.' Pause a moment and if there's still no objection, you say, 'Each!'"

How much can I get away with? How far can I go without getting caught? For some people that's the bottom line for all decision making, the only question that really matters. And for almost all of us, it's a question we still do ask – at least sometimes. It's a way of looking at the world that shows its ugly face in comments like, "She's 2000 miles away, and she'll never find out." Or "What he doesn't know won't hurt him." Or "I'll be long gone, before they find the body." Or "It's okay, nobody's looking".

How much can I get away with? What's the least I can do without getting in trouble? Sounds like the formula for an easy, laid-back life, doesn't it. But it's not. In fact, it's a guaranteed, sure-fire formula for sadness, because it goes contrary to our deepest desires namely, our unquenchable thirst for communion, our longing for friendships in which there are no hidden closets and no unshared gifts.

In today's Gospel, Jesus looks at the Ten Commandments and says quite simply, they're fine, but they're not enough. If you really want a happy life, he says, you've got to go beyond those rules, because they only look at things from the outside. The inside of things is what you need to see and respond to. Look and listen carefully to each person, each creature, each thing that crosses your path, he says, because each of them has a message for you. And the message is always the same: "I am God's good creature," says each one. "Take good care of me."

That is the silent message that I believe Jesus is asking us to hear from every person we meet, from every creature that crosses our path, and from every piece of the earth we touch. "I am God's good creature. Take good care of me," say they all.

If we listen with our hearts to the inside of each of God's creatures, we'll always know how to respond to them, and we'll have the heart to respond – with reverence and care and graciousness. And our heart's deepest desire, our longing for communion, will begin to come true, because to each of God's creatures we will have given not our least but our best – from the heart!