

**SHRULE & GLENCORRIB PARISH NEWSLETTER - SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023**Parish email: [parishofshrule3@gmail.com](mailto:parishofshrule3@gmail.com) Parish Web: [www.shruleglencorrib.com](http://www.shruleglencorrib.com)

**Fr. Vivian Loughrey PP**, Parochial House, Ramolin, Shrule, Co. Mayo H91 V2FK (☎ 093 31262)  
 Newsletter (Vol. 27 – 42) # 1,446 – Newsletter submissions: [newsletter@shruleglencorrib.com](mailto:newsletter@shruleglencorrib.com)  
 Extended Newsletter Available at [www.shruleglencorrib.com](http://www.shruleglencorrib.com) & [www.mayo.ie](http://www.mayo.ie)

All Masses available on: **Radio**:101.4 FM – **Facebook**: Shrule Parish – **Web**: churchtv.ie**PARISH OFFICE****Shrule** - Parochial House, Tuesdays 10.30am to 12-noon**OPENING HOURS****Glencorrib** - Curates House (Sunny Days), Wednesdays 10.30am to 12-noon**6th SUNDAY OF EASTER - (YEAR A) MASS DATES, TIMES & INTENTIONS****ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, SHRULE - Dedicated 1832**

Sat	13th May	8.00 pm	<b>Nan &amp; Paddy Reilly</b> , Brodella
Sun	14th May	11.00 am	<b>Martin (Mattie) Joyce</b> , Ballymartin
Tue	16th May	9.30 am	<b>Gerry Behan</b> , Kilmihil
Wed	17th May	9.30 am	<b>DM of Frehan &amp; Lardner Families</b>
Thu	18th May	9.30 am	<b>Sheila Birkett</b> , Dublin
Fri	19th May	7.00 pm	<b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – 7pm to 7.55pm</b>
		8:00 pm	
Sat	20th May	8.00 pm	<b>Henry &amp; Nora Pendergrast</b> , Shrule
Sun	21st May	11.00 am	<b>Parish Community</b>

**CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, GLENCORRIB - Dedicated 1876**

Sat	13th May	6:30 pm	<b>Tom Biggins</b> , daughter <b>Mary &amp; DM Biggins Family</b> , Wellpark <b>Mick Toher</b> , Ballynalty
Sun	14th May	9.30 am	<b>Patrick &amp; Michael Corbett &amp; DM Corbett Family</b> <b>Kathleen O'Sullivan</b> , The Parks
		3.00 pm	<b>Sunday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - 3pm to 4pm</b>
Wed	17th May	10:10 am	<b>Kirsty Bohan &amp; Lucas Joyce</b>
Fri	19th May	6:00 pm	<b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – 6pm to 6.55pm</b>
		7:00 pm	
Sat	20th May	6:30 pm	<b>James Daly Month's Mind</b>
Sun	21st May	9.30 am	<b>Irene Dougan</b> , Scotland <b>Eileen Howard &amp; DM Howard Family</b>

**CHURCH ROTAS FOR MAY****LAY READERS** – Vigil Mass**SHRULE**

Sean Frehan

**GLENCORRIB**

TBC

**LAY READERS** – Morning Mass

Breege Walsh

Roy Cecil

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS** - Vigil Mass

Rita Davin

Mary Myler

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS** - Morning

Mary Bohan Keane

Sharon McGaugh

**ALTAR SOCIETY**

Shrule/Churchfields

Moynes/Toorard

**Prayer for Reflection**

Lord Jesus, in the middle of busy work and many concerns, I want to fix my eyes on you. You are the Lord, the Lord who calls me to your kingdom, the Lord who call me to find rest with you, the Lord who calls me to conversion, to new life, to new hope. I am grateful, O Lord, that you call me here.

Help me to be renewed so that through me many can be healed and find new life.

Amen.

*'Following Jesus' Henri Nouwen*

**Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock**

The diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh & Kilfernora. **Sunday 21st May**, gathering at the shrine of Our Lady for **2pm**.

Bus leaving Galway Cathedral @ 11am, Claregalway @ 11:30am. Leaving Knock @ 5:15pm.

Contact **0877573944 / 0872048497**

Or email [knockgkk@gmail.com](mailto:knockgkk@gmail.com)

**Schedule of Ceremonies:**

2:00pm: Rosary

2:30pm: Anointing of the sick at Knock Basilica

3:00pm: Concelebrated Mass at Knock Basilica

followed by Benediction & Rosary Procession





**Congratulations** to the students of Shrule N.S. who made their First Holy Communion this weekend, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> in St. Joseph's Church, Shrule. A proud day for the students, parents & guardians along with their families. The hard work throughout the year paid off, and I would like to thank their teacher Ms. McDermott and Teresa, the 'Do This in Memory' Mass coordinator, Treavgh Mullin, the parents and guardians and the students themselves for their participation, cooperation and involvement. Please remember these students and their families in your prayers.

### Prayer For First Holy Communion

*Thank you, Lord Jesus, Oh thank you for giving yourself to me. Make me strong to show your love, wherever I may be. Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay, Close by me forever, and love me I pray. Bless all of us children, in your loving care, and bring us to heaven, to live with you there.*

### WESTERN ALZHEIMERS TEA DAY & LOCAL ARTISTS EXHIBITION



We are excited to invite you to our **annual Western Alzheimers Tea Day and Art Exhibition** which returns on **May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Glencorrib Community Centre from 5-9 pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy tea, view the work of local artists, and support a charity close to our hearts, Western Alzheimers.

Dementia & Alzheimer's are heart-wrenching conditions for the sufferer and their loved ones, and we all need to come together to support them in every way we can.

**For more information, please contact Kevin on 0863782156.** We hope to see you there!

### Calling all local artists from Shrule, Glencorrib & Kilroe areas!

We're seeking artwork in **drawing, painting, print and photography** for a group show on the weekend of May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. **Please drop off your art at Glencorrib Community Centre this Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 between 4-5 pm.**

**For more information, please text 0868419792 or 0868988921.**



### Message of Pope Francis for Day of Prayer for Vocations: Vocation: Grace & Mission

*(Full letter available in online Newsletter; printed here in 4 parts over 4 weeks – Part 2 of 4)*

The Lord's initiative and his gracious gift call for a response on our part. **Vocation is "the interplay between divine choice and human freedom"**, [1] a dynamic and exciting relationship between God and the human heart. The gift of vocation is like a divine seed that springs up in the soil of our existence, opens our hearts to God and to others, so that we can share with them the treasure we ourselves have found. This is the fundamental structure of what we mean by vocation: God calls us in love and we, in gratitude, respond to him in love. **We realize that we are beloved sons and daughters of the one Father, and we come to see ourselves as brothers and sisters of one another.** Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, when at last she "saw" this clearly, exclaimed, "At last I have found my calling: my call is love. Indeed, I have found my proper place in the Church... In the heart of the Church, my Mother, I will be love". [2]

### "I am a mission on this earth"

God's call, we said, includes a "sending". There is no vocation without mission. There is no happiness and full self-realization unless we offer others the new life that we have found. **God's call to love is an experience that does not allow us to remain silent. Saint Paul says, "Woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!" (1 Cor 9:16).** And the First Letter of John begins with the words, "What we have heard and seen, looked at and touched – the Word made flesh – we declare also to you, so that our joy may be complete" (cf. 1:1-4).

Five years ago, in the Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate, I spoke to every baptized person, saying, **"You need to see the entirety of your life as a mission" (No. 23). Yes, because each and every one of us is able to say: "I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world" (Evangelii Gaudium, 273).**

**Our shared mission as Christians is to bear joyful witness wherever we find ourselves, through our actions and words,** to the experience of being with Jesus and members of his community, which is the Church. **That mission finds expression in works of material and spiritual mercy, in a welcoming and gentle way of life that reflects closeness, compassion and tenderness, in contrast to the culture of waste and indifference.** By being a neighbour, like the Good Samaritan (cf. Lk 10:25-37), we come to understand the heart of our Christian vocation: to imitate Jesus Christ, who came to serve, not to be served (cf. Mk 10:45).

**James (Jim) Daly: 9/12/1934 to 18/4/2023 – Months Mind this Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May.**

James (Jim) Daly was born on December 9th, 1934, in Glencorrib to Michael Daly and Margaret McGovern. He was the fifth child in a family of eight and was baptized at Glencorrib Church. Jim attended the old school, which is now the Glencorrib community center, and assisted the builders of the new school by drawing water from the turlough with an ass and cart.

In his youth, Jim worked on the farm at Whelan's (now Carney's) in Houndswood. At the time, there was little mechanization, and horses did most of the work. Cows were milked by hand, and farm animals were sold at fairs in Headford or Ballinrobe. As a young man, Jim would take his bike and flash lamp and leave Houndswood before 2.00 am to walk cattle to the fair in Ballinrobe.

At the age of 27, Jim went to England and worked in the Construction Industry. Although he worked in many parts of England, he settled in Bristol. He enjoyed doing an honest day's work, loved working in the fresh air, and took great pleasure in doing a good job. In the evenings and on weekends, Jim enjoyed working in his garden where he grew his own potatoes and vegetables. He spent his holidays (two weeks) in Ireland every year and had a great attachment to Mayo and the land. He loved nothing more than giving a helping hand on the farms of his brothers and sisters and visiting his friends and relatives.

Jim was always friendly and sociable, and he made friends wherever he went. He was a gentle person with a great sense of fun, loved a laugh and a joke, and was relaxed in any company. He was a great neighbour, kind, generous, and humble. Jim had a deep faith and complete trust in God, attended Mass regularly, and said the rosary daily. He had a great devotion to Our Lady, and a visit to her shrine at Knock was part of his annual holiday.

Jim's Irish roots were always very strong, and he loved Ireland and Mayo. He kept in touch with local news by listening to the radio and reading The Irish Post. He regularly kept in touch with family at home through letters, cards, and phone calls, and kept up to date with the news of all the local families and the happenings in South Mayo. He had a great interest in all sports but was particularly interested in the Irish Rugby Team and the Mayo Football Team.

After spending 60 years in England, Jim returned to Ireland in December 2021 and quickly settled into a routine of reading, companionship, and friendship at Friars Lodge Nursing Home. His heart was always in Ireland, and he was thrilled to be home among his own people. Jim died peacefully in the loving care of the staff at Mayo University Hospital, Castlebar on April 18th, 2013.  
Ar deis Dé go raibh a anam uasal dílis.

**Glencorrib N.S. Parents Association**

would like to thank everyone who helped make the Quiz night such a success - Sponsors, helpers and of course all those who attended. A great night was had by all, and the almighty sum of €3,798.35 was raised for the school. Thank you all for your help and support.

**Moytura Hurling Club Church Gate Collection**

in Shrulle Parish on weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May. Moytura had a very successful year in 2022 with both the underage and adult teams winning County and National titles and we hope to continue the growth of hurling in South Mayo. Anyone interested in joining the club please contact Sean McGahon on 086 0328006



**Cong Moytura Heritage Society Spring Talk:**

'Aleen Cust, the first female vet, her life and times' to be given by Donal Connolly MRCVS and Brendan Gardiner MRCVS of the Aleen Cust Memorial Society on **Thursday 25 May at 8pm** in the Crossroads Community Centre. All welcome.

**Galway Diocesan Rosary Group meets every evening at 7:30pm to recite the rosary via Zoom.** The Rosary Group is administered by Fr Martin Whelan, Diocesan Secretary and CC in Oranmore. If you would like to join the Rosary Group, just email [galwaydiocesanrosary@gmail.com](mailto:galwaydiocesanrosary@gmail.com).

**Riddle me this:**

What three numbers, none of which is zero, give the same result whether they're added or multiplied?

*(Last week's answer: the match)*

Q: Why do you never see Hippo's hiding in trees?

A: Because they're really good at it!

Q: Why did the scarecrow get promoted?

A: He was **outstanding** in his field.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR TRÓCAIRE BOXES**

**PLEASE REMEMBER WITH A PRAYER THOSE WHO DIED ON THIS WEEK IN FORMER YEARS**

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Christian</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Date Died</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Cemetery</b>
<b>Conroy</b>	Mary	Mochorra	13/05/1967	81	Shrule
<b>King</b>	Katie	Ballycurrin	13/05/1989	86	Killursa
<b>Canavan</b>	Thomas	Ballycurrin	13/05/1996	91	Killursa
<b>Joyce</b>	Martin	Ballymartin	13/05/2007	80	Shrule
<b>O'Sullivan</b>	Kathleen	The Parks	13/05/2016	89	Killursa
<b>Biggins</b>	Bridget	Rosdaff	14/05/1938		Moyne
<b>Walsh</b>	Mrs.	Brodella	14/05/1940	68	Shrule
<b>Keville</b>	Thomas	Lakefield	14/05/1951	80	Moyne
<b>Corbett</b>	Patrick	Gorthatubber	14/05/1965	68	Shrule
<b>Coyne</b>	Michael	Old Ballynalty	14/05/1965	67	Moyne
<b>Greaney</b>	Margaret	Ramolin	14/05/1971	76	Shrule
<b>Hogan</b>	Michael	Rostaff	14/05/1984	80	Moyne
<b>Behan</b>	Gerry	Kilmihil, Co. Clare	14/05/2003	47	Moyne
<b>Joyce</b>	Mrs.	Gortbrack	15/05/1939	62	Killursa
<b>Biggins</b>	Thomas	Wallpark	15/05/1965	71	Moyne
<b>Moran</b>	Teresa	Dalgan Park	15/05/1993	68	Robeen
<b>McDonagh</b>	John	Ramolin	15/05/1998	77	Shrule
<b>O'Kane</b>	Frank	Glencorrib	15/05/2012	60	Derry
<b>Kyne</b>	Mary	Brackloon	16/05/1929	92	Shrule
<b>Walsh</b>	Patrick	Brodella	16/05/1950	87	Shrule
<b>Monahan</b>	James	Toorard	16/05/1954	83	Moyne
<b>Davin</b>	Michael	Brackloon	17/05/1916	98	Shrule
<b>Hogan</b>	Brigid	Rosdaff	17/05/1954	84	Moyne
<b>Monahan</b>	Patrick	Toorard	17/05/1955	84	Moyne
<b>Gibbons</b>	John	Gurteen	17/05/1997	74	Shrule
<b>O'Loughlin</b>	Michael	Cahernabrock	18/05/1916	86	Shrule
<b>Varley</b>	Thomas	Mochorra	18/05/1964	54	Shrule
<b>O'Connor</b>	Margaret	Boula	18/05/1975	82	Killursa
<b>Flatley</b>	Julia	St.Mary's Road	18/05/1983	70	Shrule
<b>Kyne</b>	Mary	Dalgan	18/05/1986	80	Donaghpatrick
<b>Flood</b>	Brigid	Ballynalty	18/05/2008	88	Cross
<b>Lydon</b>	Patrick	New Ballynalty	19/05/1917	50	Killursa
<b>Concannon</b>	Marcus	Ballycurrin	19/05/1924	90	Killursa
<b>Casey</b>	Ellen	De Clifford St.	19/05/1934	78	Shrule
<b>O'Dea</b>	Julia	Shrule	19/05/1959	79	Shrule
<b>Sexton</b>	Josephine	Shrule	19/05/1990	82	Corcomroe Abbey
<b>Lawless</b>	Kathleen	Wakefield	19/05/2010	88	Shrule
<b>Connelly</b>	Mrs.	Ballycurrin	20/05/1916		Kilmaine
<b>Dooley</b>	Mary	Cahernabrock	20/05/1924	46	Shrule
<b>Davin</b>	James	St.Mary's Road	20/05/1986	63	Shrule
<b>Walsh</b>	Dinny	Brodella	20/05/1999	83	Shrule
<b>Monahan</b>	John	Toorard	21/05/1937	31	Moyne
<b>Clabby</b>	John	St. Mary's Road	21/05/1955	84	Shrule

**PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER WITH A PRAYER THE RECENTLY DECEASED**

**Paul (Christopher) Cox**

Shrule, Mayo / Dublin.  
Service for Paul took place at Glasnevin Crematorium on Thursday last 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023. RIP.



**Mike (Vickle) Walsh**

Knocklahard, Headford, Galway.  
Funeral Mass for Mike takes place at St. Mary's Church, Claran, on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023. RIP.



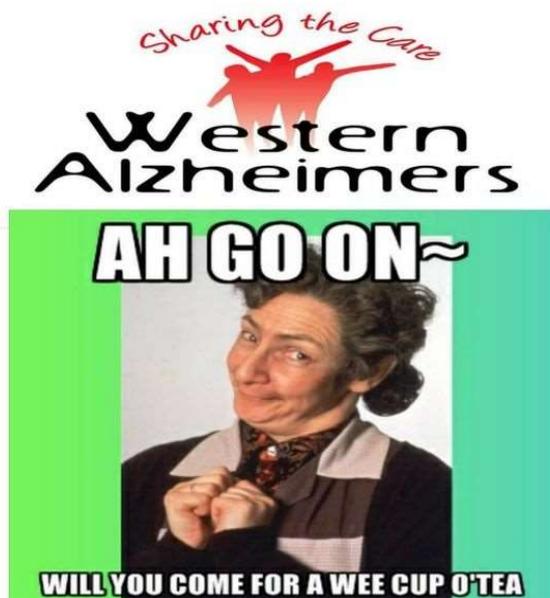
**Barbara Mulry (née Canavan)**

Crosswood, Headford, Galway. Funeral Mass for Barbara takes place in St. Mary's Church, Claran, this Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023. RIP.



**Novena for Life:** The *Pray for Life* Novena is an invitation to join thousands of people across Ireland to pray for the protection of human life, from Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to the Feast of the Visitation on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life in Ireland. Visit [www.prayforlife.ie](http://www.prayforlife.ie) for the daily novena prayers which will also be posted on [facebook.com/PrayforLifeNovena](https://www.facebook.com/PrayforLifeNovena) and @ChooseLifeIRL on Twitter. This is an initiative of the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

**WESTERN ALZHEIMERS TEA DAY & LOCAL ARTISTS EXHIBITION  
IN GLENCORRIB COMMUNITY CENTRE ON  
SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY FROM 5pm to 9pm.  
ALL DONATIONS RECEIVED WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE  
WESTERN ALZHEIMERS ASSOCIATION**



In the times we live in, we all know of a loved one (family or friend) who is suffering from Dementia or Alzheimers. It is a terrible illness and so sad for the sufferer. We all need to do our bit to help them and their families. Therefore we will be recommencing our annual Western Alzheimers Tea Day in Glencorrib Community Centre on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May from 5pm to 9pm.

Also on the same evening, we will have an Art Exhibition from our local artists.

All are invited to join us for a wonderful evening of tea drinking, art viewing and supporting a charity close to all our hearts, Western Alzheimers. Thank You.

for more info ☎️ Kevin on 0863782156



**LOCAL ARTISTS EXHIBITION**

In conjunction with the Western Alzheimer's Tea Day, in Glencorrib Community Centre on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 5 – 9 p.m.

We are holding a Local Artists Exhibition

**CALL FOR LOCAL ARTISTS**

From the Shrule, Glencorrib & Kilroe areas. Drawing, painting, print and photography. For group show on weekend 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Art works to be dropped off at Glencorrib Community Centre on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023** between **4-5 pm**. (No works will be accepted before or after this time). For further info via text to – 0868419792 / 0868988921

# Pray for Life Novena 2023

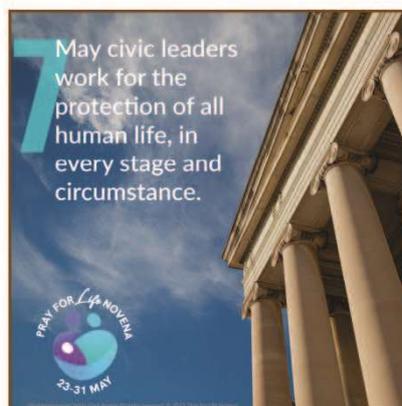
Join thousands of people across Ireland to Pray for Life!



The Pray for Life Novena ([prayforlife.ie](http://prayforlife.ie)) is an invitation to people across Ireland, and indeed across the world, to pray for the protection of human life. The novena, an initiative of the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, begins on 23 May 2023 and ends on 31 May, the wonderful feast of the Visitation of Our Lady to her cousin Elizabeth.

Participants who sign up on the [prayforlife.ie](http://prayforlife.ie) website are sent the novena prayer each day to their email in-box; the daily prayer includes the intention of the day, a short intercession, a reflection, and a suggested action to help build a culture for life. A downloadable copy of the novena for printing is also available on the website.

This feast day of the Visitation sums up beautifully what the Pray for Life novena is about: a celebration of joy in new life, even in what can seem like difficult and challenging circumstances. Mary was moved by grace to an act of faith and allowed God the Father to guide her. She is the first evangeliser: she carries Jesus in her womb, and John in Elizabeth's womb recognises him and leaps for joy. What transpires for their lives is remarkable. The consequence of Mary saying 'yes' and her simple act of faith is transformative and redemptive for humanity. When each of us respond with joy and courage to the prompt of the Holy Spirit, as Mary did, we can transform not only our own lives but the whole of society. We can return again to a society which values and protects all life, especially at the earliest and most vulnerable stages. We can build again a



society that understands a fundamental truth: that every life is a good and perfect gift, deserving protection, that we each have a Father who wants us to 'have life and have it more abundantly' (John 10:10) What a powerful reality, that as members of the Body of Christ we can help those in their darkest moments, we can spiritually and practically connect with those feeling isolated, alone and undervalued: we can make a difference!

Last year was the first year of the Pray for Life novena, and the response was heart-warming and extremely encouraging: thousands of people of good will across Ireland and beyond joined in praying for life. The daily intentions included prayers for expectant mothers and fathers, for unborn children, for those who defend life, and for an end to abortion. We heard from parishes, prayer groups and families around Ireland who arranged to pray the novena together as a community, and who in turn shared it with others. This year again, the

Council for Life encourages parishes or other groups to pray the novena together in their church, prayer group or family.

If you are praying the novena as a group, please get in touch via the website [www.prayforlife.ie](http://www.prayforlife.ie) to let us know, so that together we can build a sense of a community of life, and of praying together, inviting and encouraging others to join us.

The aim of this Novena is to help nurture a culture that respects all human life and to promote the protection of life in its entirety from the moment of conception to its natural end. We invite you to unite in prayer with thousands of people all over the country. We know that if we continue to pray and act and never give up, all human life will once again be valued and protected in our country.

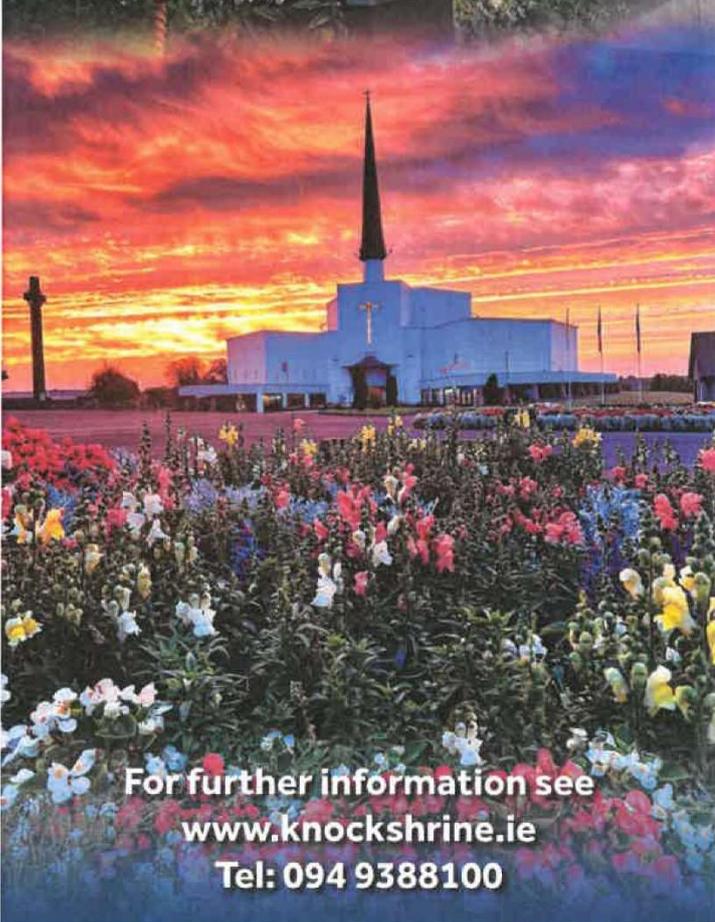
*'Bow down then before the power of God now, and he will raise you up on the appointed day; unload all your worries on him, since he is looking after you'*

1 Pt 5:7 FROM EVENING PRAYER  
FOR THE FEAST OF THE  
VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Martha Duffy

# KNOCK

Ireland's International Eucharistic  
and Marian Shrine



For further information see  
[www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie)  
Tel: 094 9388100

## Achonry, Clonfert & Galway Diocesan Pilgrimages to Knock Shrine

Sunday  
May 21st, 2023



### Schedule of Ceremonies

- 2.00pm: **Rosary**
- 2.30pm: **Anointing of the Sick at  
Knock Basilica**
- 3.00pm: **Concelebrated Mass at Knock  
Basilica followed by Benediction  
& Rosary Procession**

**Bus leaving Galway Cathedral  
on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 11.00a.m.  
Claregalway at 11.30a.m.  
Leaving knock Shrine at 5.15p.m.  
Contact: 0877573944  
0872048497  
Or Email: [knockgkk@gmail.com](mailto:knockgkk@gmail.com)**

**VISIT KNOCK MUSEUM (Admission Free)**

**The Galway Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** will take place on **June 27th to July 3rd**. The fare is €850 for 6 nights which includes transportation to and from Galway/Shannon. Insurance is optional at €39 or pilgrims may have their own travel insurance. Further information can be got from Fr. Martin Moran, Killannin, Rosscahill, - 087/2508959. Bookings – Reservations – Enquiries to: Joe Walsh Tours, 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2; email: [info@joewalshstours.ie](mailto:info@joewalshstours.ie)

### **Family Support Drop-in Clinic**

Are you dealing with a difficult issue at home? Do you need a friendly ear to voice your concerns? Solas Family Resource Centre in conjunction with Tusla and Foroige are offering a **Family Support Community Drop-In Clinic on the first Wednesday of every month. No appointment needed** just call in for a cup of tea and a chat. We will provide a safe and confidential space to discuss your issues and concerns, we can support or link you with other services, provide information and guidance. For more information please contact John on 093-36446 or Eamonn on 086-1713384.

### **THREE-DAY PILGRIMAGE IN LOUGH DERG**

**Friday 23 to Sunday 25 June 2023.** Bus departing Renmore church at 7.15am on Friday (pick-up points can be arranged if required). Cost €130 including bus. For more information and bookings please contact Anne on 086 838 1633 or Patrizia at 086 407 3192.

### **HOLY LAND CHRISTMAS PILGRIMAGE**

Independent pilgrimage organiser James Treacy is arranging a Galway/Mayo pilgrimage to the Holy Land for Christmas 2023, taking in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth, the Dead Sea, Sea of Galilee, Last Supper Room, Garden of Gethsemane, and the Mount of Olives. Full day in Bethlehem on Christmas Day.

Please contact James Treacy at 061 921470 or Email [jamestreacyphotography@gmail.com](mailto:jamestreacyphotography@gmail.com) for further information.



**Join our Marriage Preparation Team**

Contact  
[marriagepreparation@accord.ie](mailto:marriagepreparation@accord.ie)

Accord is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation facilitators. Marriage facilitators are part of a team that prepare couples for the sacrament of marriage. Couples find our courses fun, engaging and very relevant, while facilitators gain valuable life skills. If you are interested, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact [marriagepreparation@accord.ie](mailto:marriagepreparation@accord.ie) or call 01-5053112 for more information.

## Word in your ear...

Most of you will be familiar with the 'The Great Gatsby', a 1925 novel by American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald. Set in the Jazz Age on Long Island, near New York City, the novel depicts first-person narrator Nick Carraway's interactions with mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and Gatsby's obsession to reunite with his former lover, Daisy Buchanan.

His real name was James Gats, from poor farming stock in rural North Dakota. But to the rest of the world he was millionaire playboy Jay Gatsby. He held lavish parties. It was rumoured he once killed a man and was related to the Kaiser. But few people knew the truth. His money was made during prohibition, selling illegal booze. And with this vast wealth, he re-wrote his past, pretending he went to Oxford and adopting fake English idioms. But the one thing he wasn't able to escape was his utter intoxication with Daisy Fay, an officer's daughter. He had a month's fling with her just before he was posted overseas to the 1914-18 Great War.

Today the Great Gatsby is regarded as a masterpiece, the 'great American novel'. However when it was first published in 1925, the book was neither a critical or a commercial success. But in recent months, a dance version opens in Sadder's Wells, a film version opens in Cannes, and the high street is currently full of Gatsby inspired fashions. And why not, it's a brilliant book. And, Leonardo De Caprio is regarded as just perfect in the part of a tragic conman brought down by an overpowering obsession with a woman. He had elevated this woman in his mind to become something much more than she really was.

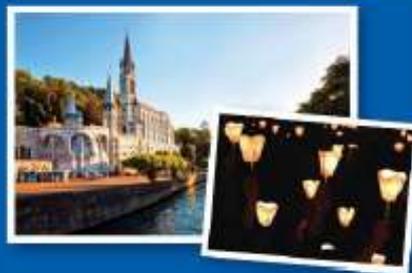
The Great Gatsby is primarily regarded as a none-toosubtle critique of the Jazz Age with its shallow promises. At the same time as Fitzgerald was putting together his great critique, his distinguished contemporary, the religious writer Paul Tillich, was working towards a parallel critique of the Gatsbys of this world. For Tillich, faith was understood as a focus on what he called matters of "ultimate concern". The problem with many of us, he suggested, is we are focused instead on things that are of penultimate concern. In other words, we worship things that are unworthy of real devotion - as Daisy was unworthy of the obsessive concern heaped on her by Gatsby. Which is why Tillich believed that one of the principle tasks of theology was iconoclasm - that is, showing up the false idols of our age to be precisely that. Whether it be money, or fun, or even beautiful women, such things are not worthy of the devotion that some people invest in them. And this, of course, was also Fitzgerald's point - though, in reality, he was much dazzled by them too.

Gatsby is a tragic figure because he over-invests attention and his energies in the wrong place. All night long he stood staring out over Long Island sound, looking towards a flashing green light next to where Daisy lived with her polo-playing husband.

Yes, in a sense, he was a romantic hero. But a fool as well. "There must have been moments" wrote Fitzgerald, "when Daisy tumbled short of his dreams - not through her own fault, but because of the colossal vitality of his own illusion." Which is why it's right to take seriously the theological imperative of destroying false idols of the mind - and indeed, idols of the heart as well. Truth can be cruel, but merciful too

*-Dick Lyng, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Ballyboden*

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# **MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 2023 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

## **Vocation: Grace and Mission**

Dear brothers and sisters, dear young people!

This is now the sixtieth time that we are celebrating the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, established by Saint Paul VI in 1964, during the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. This providential initiative seeks to assist the members of the People of God, as individuals and as communities, to respond to the call and mission that the Lord entrusts to each of us in today's world, amid its afflictions and its hopes, its challenges and its achievements.

This year I would ask you, in your reflection and prayer, to take as your guide the theme "Vocation: Grace and Mission". This Day is a precious opportunity for recalling with wonder that the Lord's call is grace, complete gift, and at the same time a commitment to bring the Gospel to others. We are called to a faith that bears witness, one that closely connects the life of grace, as experienced in the sacraments and ecclesial communion, to our apostolate in the world. Led by the Spirit, Christians are challenged to respond to existential peripheries and human dramas, ever conscious that the mission is God's work; it is not carried out by us alone, but always in ecclesial communion, together with our brothers and sisters, and under the guidance of the Church's pastors. For this has always been God's dream: that we should live with him in a communion of love.

### **"Chosen before the creation of the world"**

The apostle Paul opens before us a remarkable horizon: in Christ, God the Father **"chose us before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Eph 1:4-5).** These words allow us to glimpse life at its fullest: God has "conceived" us in his image and likeness and desires us to be his sons and daughters. We were created by love, for love and with love, and we are made for love.

In the course of our lives, this call, which is part of the fibre of our being and the secret of our happiness, comes to us by the work of the Holy Spirit in ever new ways. It enlightens our minds, strengthens our wills, fills us with amazement and sets our hearts afire. At times, the Spirit comes to us in completely unexpected ways. So it was for me when, on 21 September 1953, as I was on my way to an annual school celebration, I was led to stop by a church and go to confession. That day changed my life and left a mark that has endured to the present day. **God's call to the gift of self tends to make itself known gradually: in our encounter with situations of poverty, in moments of prayer, when we see a clear witness to the Gospel, or read something that opens our minds.** When we hear God's word and sense that it is spoken directly to us, in the advice given by a fellow brother or sister, in moments of sickness or sorrow... In all the ways he calls us, God shows infinite creativity.

The Lord's initiative and his gracious gift call for a response on our part. **Vocation is "the interplay between divine choice and human freedom",** [1] a dynamic and exciting relationship between God and the human heart. The gift of vocation is like a divine seed that springs up in the soil of our existence, opens our hearts to God and to others, so that we can share with them the treasure we ourselves have found. This is the fundamental structure of what we mean by vocation: God calls us in love and we, in gratitude, respond to him in love. **We realize that we are beloved sons and daughters of the one Father, and we come to see ourselves as brothers and sisters of one another.** Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, when at last she "saw" this clearly, exclaimed, "At last I have found my calling: my call is love. Indeed, I have found my proper place in the Church... In the heart of the Church, my Mother, I will be love". [2]

### **"I am a mission on this earth"**

God's call, we said, includes a "sending". There is no vocation without mission. There is no happiness and full self-realization unless we offer others the new life that we have found. **God's call to love is an experience that does not allow us to remain silent. Saint Paul says, "Woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!" (1 Cor 9:16).** And the First Letter of John begins with the words, "What we have heard and seen, looked at and touched – the Word made flesh – we declare also to you, so that our joy may be complete" (cf. 1:1-4).

Five years ago, in the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*, I spoke to every baptized person, saying, **"You need to see the entirety of your life as a mission" (No. 23). Yes, because each and every one of us is able to say: "I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273).**

**Our shared mission as Christians is to bear joyful witness wherever we find ourselves, through our actions and words,** to the experience of being with Jesus and members of his community, which is the Church. **That mission finds expression in works of material and spiritual mercy, in a welcoming and gentle way of life that reflects closeness, compassion and tenderness, in contrast to the culture of waste and indifference.** By being a neighbour, like the Good Samaritan (cf. *Lk* 10:25-37), we come to understand the heart of our Christian vocation: to imitate Jesus Christ, who came to serve, not to be served (cf. *Mk* 10:45).

**This missionary activity does not arise simply from our own abilities, plans and projects, nor from our sheer willpower or our efforts to practice the virtues; it is the result of a profound experience in the company of Jesus.** Only then can we testify to a Person, a Life, and thus become "apostles". Only then can we regard ourselves as "sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising, healing and freeing" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273).

The Gospel icon of this experience is that of the two disciples journeying to Emmaus. After their encounter with the risen Jesus, they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the Scriptures to us?" (*Lk* 24:32). In those disciples, we can see what it means to have "hearts on fire, feet on the move". [3] This is also my fervent hope for the coming World Youth Day in Lisbon, to which I joyfully look forward, with its motto: "Mary arose and went with haste" (*Lk* 1:39). May every man and woman feel called to arise and go in haste, with hearts on fire.

#### ***Called together and convened.***

**The evangelist Mark relates the moment when Jesus called to himself twelve disciples, each by name. He appointed them to be with him and to be sent out to proclaim the message,** to heal infirmities and to cast out demons (cf. *Mk* 3:13-15). **The Lord thus laid the foundations of his new community.** The Twelve were people from different social classes and trades; none of them was a person of influence. The Gospels speak too of other callings, like that of the 72 disciples whom Jesus sent out two by two (cf. *Lk* 10:1).

**The Church is an *Ecclesia*, the Greek word for *an assembly of persons called and convened, in order to form the community of missionary disciples of Jesus Christ committed to sharing love among themselves* (cf. *Jn* 13:34; 15:12) and spreading that love to all others, so that God's kingdom may come.**

**Within the Church, all of us are servants, in accordance with the variety of our vocations, charisms and ministries.** Our common vocation to give ourselves in love develops and finds concrete expression in the life of lay men and women, devoted to raising a family as a small *domestic church* and working as a leaven of the Gospel to renew the different sectors of society; in the testimony of consecrated women and men who are completely committed to God for the sake of their brothers and sisters as a prophetic sign of the kingdom of God; in ordained ministers – deacons, priests and bishops – placed at the service of preaching, prayer and fostering the communion of the holy People of God. **Only in relation with all the others, does any particular vocation in the Church fully disclose its true nature and richness.** Viewed in this light, the Church is a vocational "**symphony**", with **every vocation united yet distinct, in harmony and joined together in "going forth"** to radiate throughout the world the new life of the kingdom of God.

#### ***Grace and mission: a gift and a task***

Dear brothers and sisters, **vocation is a gift and a task, a source of new life and true joy.** May the initiatives of prayer and of activity associated with this Day strengthen an awareness of vocation within our families, our parish communities, our communities of consecrated life, and our ecclesial associations and movements. The Spirit of the risen Lord dispels our apathy and grants us the gifts of sympathy and empathy. In this way, he enables us to live each day born anew as children of the God who is love (cf. *1 Jn* 4:16) and in turn to offer that love to others. To bring life everywhere, especially in places of exclusion and exploitation, poverty and death, in order to enlarge the spaces of love, [4] so that God may reign ever more fully in this world.

May the prayer that Saint Paul VI composed for the first World Day of Vocations, 11 April 1964, accompany us on our journey:

*"O Jesus, divine Shepherd of souls, you called the apostles and made them fishers of men. Continue to draw to yourself ardent and generous souls from among the young, in order to make them your followers and your ministers. Give them a share in your thirst for the redemption of all... Open before them the horizons of the entire world... By responding to your call, may they prolong your mission here on earth, build up your Mystical Body which is the Church, and be 'the salt of the earth' and 'the light of the world' (Mt 5:13)".*

May the Virgin Mary watch over you and protect you. With my blessing.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 30 April 2023, Fourth Sunday of Easter.*

FRANCIS