

Reflection:

Jesus said: "I know my own and my own know me".

How can we be good shepards to those under us or those in our care, if we don't try to get to know them?

Often, alas, we don't even know their names, not to mind their life stories. Can we blame them, then, if they look upon us as mere hirelings who are just interested in their salaries?

And how can we form a bond with them if we keep our distance from them thus preventing them from getting to know us? Can we blame them of they too keep their distance from us, and if as a result they distrust or fear us?

Don't tell me that you care about me if you haven't even bothered to get to know my name. Don't tell me that you love me if you have kept your distance from me.

Caring is risky. Love is risky. It means getting close to people, as Christ, the Good Shepard, got close to us.



Sunday 3rd May, 2015

St Mary's

Sat 2nd May 7.30 Sheila & Jim Hamilton AM
Wed 6th 7.30 Annie McKenna (Birthday Mass)
Thurs 7th 10.00 St. Pio Mass & Novena Prayers
Fri 8th 1pm Wedding
Sat 9th 7.30 Tom & Annie Banks AM
(Holy Hour every Sunday 3-4pm)

St Therese's

Sun 3rd 11.30 Joe Treston AM
Tues 5th 7.30 Angela Gilligan (Birthday Mass)
Sat 9th 11.00 1st Holy Communion
Sun 10th 11.30 Mary & John Scanlon AM

St Michael's

Sun 3rd May 10.00 James Patrick Foley AM
Sun 10th 10.00 Martin & Christina Sweeney AM
Sat 16th 1.00 Christening
Sun 17th 10.00 Mattie & Kathleen Clancy AM
(Holy Hour every Tuesday 6-7pm)

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May	Liturgy	Collectors	Alter Society
St. Mary's	Therese O'Reilly	Tommy Hamilton & Michael Gallagher	Christina McTernan & Mary Morrison
St. Therese's	Children in School	Sean Diamond & Hugh Gallagher	
St. Michael's	Michael & Mary Clancy	William O'Brien & Ian Hazlette	Patricia Kelly & Christina McHugh

Sunday 3rd May 2015

1. **Congratulations** to John McGoldrick and Brid Quinn who were married in Freshford, Co. Kilkenny on Friday last. Every blessing and happiness to the both of them in their future.
2. **Gospel Reflection** – Many today ask, ‘Why should I go to church? Why can’t I just worship God in my own way? Surely religion is about my personal relationship with God?’ From the earliest times, following Jesus was never just a private, personal matter. Christians came together to live in community, to profess their faith in Jesus Christ, to witness his resurrection, and live by his teachings. The profound reason for this is given to us by Christ himself, when he said, ‘I am the vine, you are the branches.’ The vine and its branches are one. There is a mutual interdependence of branch and vine, and branch with branch. To say, ‘I will follow Jesus but not the Church,’ is to separate Jesus from the Church, to cut off the branches from the vine. The first disciples of Jesus had seen him, eaten with him, and spoken with him after his resurrection. As a consequence they had a deep sense of connectedness with him, a connectedness from which they drew great strength. Jesus had chosen them. He had made them his friends, and sent them out to bear fruit, the fruit of love. By this all will know that we are living branches of the Vine – by the bond that exists between us and the care we show for one another.
3. **Congratulations** to the boys and girls from St. Mary’s N.S. and St. Joseph’s N.S. who made their 1st Holy Communion on Saturday. Every good blessing to them and all their parents and families.
4. **Congratulations** to baby Conan Patrick Smiley, son of Conor and Marie, who was christened on Saturday in St. Therese’s church.
5. **Thanks** – to all the principals and staff from the three primary schools of the Parish for all their help with Fr. Vincent in the preparation for the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.
6. **St. Michael’s Church Killavoggy** – As previously announced, necessary repairs are to be carried out on the roof of St. Michael’s Church. A fundraising event will be organised by friends of the Parish and the Community of Killavoggy in New York later in the year. There will also be fundraising events locally to help with the church. No costings are at hand at the moment. I would appreciate if people have relations or family in the New York area, if I could have their addresses as soon as possible as they would like to know and participate in this event in New York in October. Please drop in the names and addresses to me, or to my letterbox in the Parochial house. Many thanks – Fr. Vincent.
7. **5K Family Fun Run** The Dromahair Defibrillator Group are hosting a 5k family fun run/walk on Sunday May 10th @ 2pm starting from Newtownmanor Hall. Registration from 1pm. Please come out and support this event. Refreshments and spot prizes following the event in the hall. All proceeds going towards the purchase of equipment to maintain our 4 units in the area. Please support.
8. **Message from Bishop Francis Duffy (First of Three weekend messages)** - It is important to listen to all voices, especially minority voices. We may be moved by some of what we hear and we might not agree with everything we hear but it is important to be respectful of differing opinions. In our constitution “The State pledges itself to guard with special care the institution of Marriage, on which the Family is founded, and to protect it against attack” (41.3.1). Marriage matters because it is about the unique relationship between a man and a woman. The complementarity of man and woman can give rise to new life. To change the meaning of marriage will undo the uniqueness that marriage represents and that it celebrates. It is important that we reflect before we change the meaning of marriage.
Francis Duffy, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois. Further details at www.meaningofmarriage.ie
9. **Prayer Group** – the next prayer group will take place on Thurs 28th May @ 8pm – Ballinagar Hall. All are welcome!
10. **Dates for the Community** –
 - **Board of Management Meetings** – Ballintogher – Mon 25th @ 8pm; Killenummery – Tues 26th @ 8.15pm; Ardvarney – Wed 27th @ 8.15pm.
 - **First Holy Communion** – St. Therese’s – Sat 9th May @ 11am.
 - **Rededication of St. Mel’s Cathedral** – Sun 17th May @ 3pm
 - Mass for Sr. Valerie Rooney’s final profession – Sat May 23rd @ 7.30pm St. Mary’s. Refreshments in Hall after Mass.
 - **Mass Rock Mass** – Sun 31st May @ 10am (This will replace the Killavoggy Mass)
 - **Exam Mass** for all Leaving/Junior Cert students – Mon June 1st @ 7.30 St. Therese’s.
 - **6th Class Graduation Mass** for all three Primary Schools Mon June 15th @ 7.30pm St. Therese’s.
 - **Cemetery Mass** – Carrowcrin – Sat 27th June @ 7.30pm; Killery – Sun 28th June @ 11.30am; Creevelea Sun 28th June @ 2pm. “Prayer Service” in the Old Cemetery, Killenummery on Sun 5th July @ 2pm.
 - **50th Anniversary of St. Mary’s, Ardvarney** – Fri 10th July @ 7.30pm in St. Mary’s Parish Church.
 - **Pilgrimage to Lourdes** – 27th – 1st June; Pilgrimage to Medugorje – June 17th – 24th.
11. **First Thurs/First Friday Calls** - Fr. Vincent will do his First Thurs calls on Tuesday 5th May and First Friday calls on Wed 6th May. The change of these dates are due to Friday Weddings.
12. **5k Run/Walk** on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May in aid of Dromahair Ladies GAA and the New Childrens Diabetic Unit at Sligo General Hospital. Registration in Dromahair Park from 11:15am and run/walk commences at 12 noon. Adults €10, under 16 €5 and family rate €20. Prize draw for all competitors. Please support.
13. **Dromahair Development Association** are hoping to compile a Local Directory of businesses and services available in the general Dromahair area. If you are interested in having your business listed please contact the Depot before Friday 20th May with your contact details. You can call us on 071 9134986 or email dda.tidytowns@gmail.com
14. **County Leitrim Job Club** will be running a job seeking skills course in **The Depot, Dromahair** starting on Tuesday 5th May 2015 and running for four weeks. This course covers all aspects of job seeking and basic computer skills. An attendance allowance is available to participants on this programme. If you would like to reserve a place or require any further information, please contact Martina or Mary at Leitrim Development Company 071 9641770/ 086 0306565 or email leitrimjobclub@ldco.ie
15. **25 Card Drive** – continues every Tuesday evening in Ballinagar Hall @ 9pm. Increased prize money. Come along and bring a friend or two.
16. **Ushers for May 2015** – St. Mary’s & St. Michael’s are as follows: Martin Paul McGoldrick, Martin Kelly, Ann Kelly & Volunteer.
17. **Afternoon Sets Ceili** taking place on Sunday 3rd May in Blue Devon, Dromahair 3-6pm with music by Innisfree Ceili Band – Al Ireland Ceili Band 2008. Admission €10 includes refreshments. So come along & enjoy a wonderful afternoon of music and set dancing. Proceeds are going to North West Hospice whose dedicated team have been of immense support in our community. Any enquiries call Colm O’Brien 086-3925622
18. **A Mental Health Awareness night** will be held in the Ramada Hotel, Drumshanbo on Thursday May 7th at 8pm. Guest speakers such as Dr. Murthy, Consultant Psychiatrist for Leitrim, Patricia Hannon, Psychologist & Bereavement councillor, Denis O’Brien Co Ordinator of services and Mark Harte, brother of Michaela McAlreavy. The MC on the night is Charlie McGettigan, Eurovision winner.
19. **Ballintogher Tidy Towns – Clean up on Thursday 7th May, Meet at school – 7pm** – all are asked to come along on Thursday to help with clean up of the village and surrounds. Please bring Hi-Vis and tools – brush, spade, shovel, rubber gloves etc.
20. **Coola 60th Anniversary Books** are now on sale in the school and in local shops €10 each.

