

NEWS & VIEWS

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them
and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion,
strength and wisdom
to guide their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality
for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.

Amen.

Parish Team Phone Numbers

Fr. Ruairí Ó'Domhnaill, P.P.
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M A S S T I M E S

ST CONLETH'S

Saturday: Vigil Mass
6.00pm
Sunday: 8.30am 11.00am
12.30pm 7.00pm

CILL MHUIRE

Saturday: Vigil Mass
7.00pm
Sunday: 10.30am

DOMINICAN CHURCH

Saturday: Vigil Mass
8.00pm
Sunday: 9.30am 10.30am
12 noon 5.30pm



BAPTISMS

Dan Seán Campbell – Kilbelin Abbey
Sophie Annie Confrey – Ballysax, The Curragh
Alex William Confrey – Ballysax, The Curragh
Alana Sylvia Moore – Curragh Grange
Margaret Stokes – Piercetown
Eirinn Heavey – Roseberry
Amelia Eve Kenny - O'Connell – The Paddocks
Jakub Rybarski – Swords, Dublin

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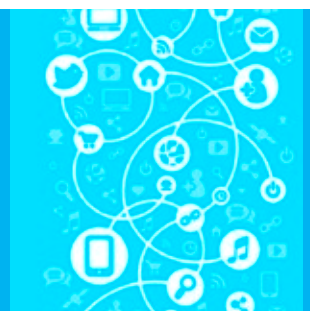
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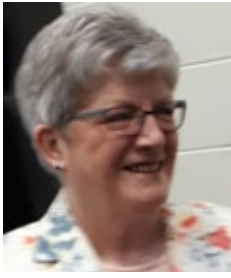
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EDITORIAL



Our plan for the March News & Views was to promote the Synod with its three subheadings of Communion, Participation and Mission. A few days ago, someone said to me “How can we think about the Synod in the midst of the Ukraine crisis?”

Synod is about “Walking Together” – the logo makes that very obvious, as you will see further on – and emphasises that we are all on the road together. I see that togetherness too in images of the mass of humanity streaming towards the Ukrainian border; young and old, well and infirm, mostly women and children, although there are some older men. They are on a forced walk, seeing no alternative but to flee for their safety and that of their families. Surely it is an example of community in crisis.

This Lent has been designated a “Listening Lent” in our diocese. We are being invited to listen to each other and to voices that we do not often hear in the Church. There will be invitations to experience a “listening group” during the next few weeks. But as I listen to the radio or watch the daily news, I feel myself drawn to listen to the pain of the Ukrainian people – those in the country and those living here in Ireland who bear the worry about family and country. How can we participate in their pain? Perhaps only by standing with them in solidarity, in prayer, perhaps by donating towards easing their suffering even in a small way. Sometimes the hardest thing to do is to stand in solidarity with another while feeling our helplessness and our inability to change the situation.

We have only to look at Mary the Mother of Jesus and his few disciples at the foot of the Cross on Good Friday. We each have our own crosses to bear but certainly the plight and pain of the Ukrainian people is a mighty cross.

Each Friday evening during Lent, the Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7pm in St. Conleth’s Church. Perhaps we could bring our personal crosses and those of the people of Ukraine to the Cross of Christ during that Lenten prayer, as a way of walking with and being in solidarity with them. Later this month we will celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and all things Irish. St. Patrick himself was torn from his homeland and found himself amongst strangers. Let us invoke his intercession at this time; let us reach out in spirit and in practical ways if we can to those who now suffer loss and displacement.

Bishop Denis invites us to pray the following Peace Prayer every day during Lent:

Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
That you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and
wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out
in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice become a reality
for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.

Amen

Margarita Bedding



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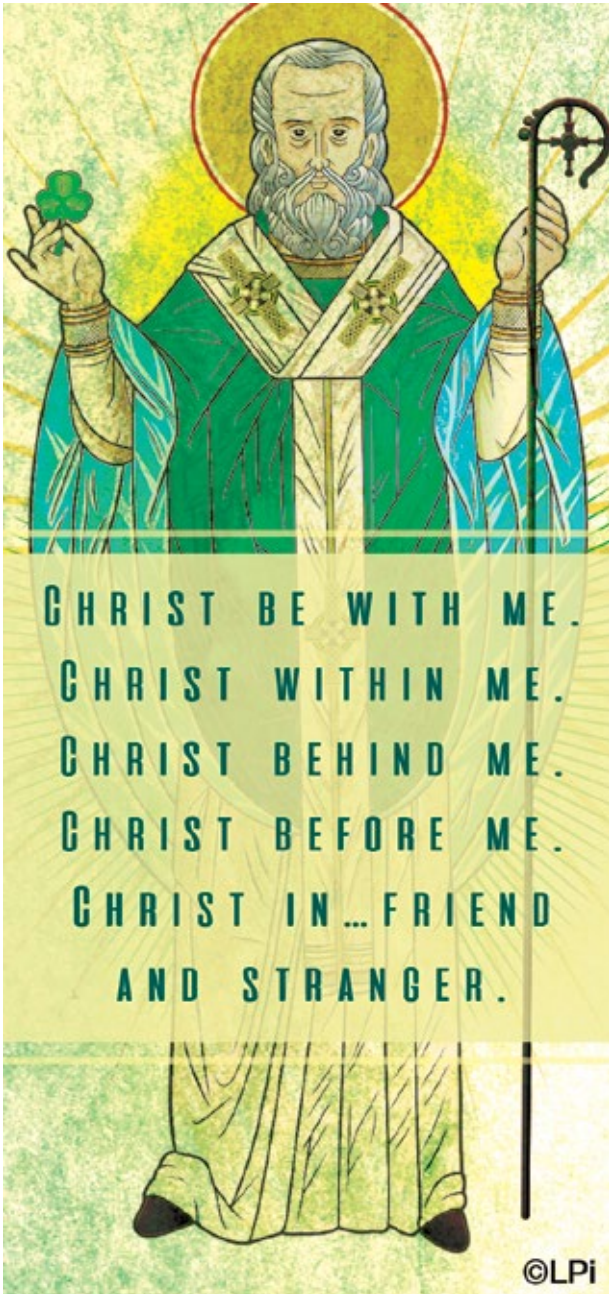
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CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK



St. Patrick's Day has become a celebration of everything Irish, an occasion to wear something green and go to the parade, to eat and drink and have fun. Someone arriving from another galaxy could easily be under the impression that it is simply a "Celebration of Irishness". When he is referred to, St. Patrick is remembered as bringing the faith to Ireland and driving out the snakes! This is probably one of the legends that have grown up around him as records show that Ireland would have been too cold to have had snakes in the country.

Patrick is a saint of the fifth century; he grew up in Roman Britain and was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland where he is said to have tended herds on Slemish Mountain for six years. He eventually escaped back to his home country but felt a calling to return to Ireland to convert the Irish. He was probably not the first Christian missionary but was by far the most influential, having many converts during his lifetime.

His writings show him as someone who lived by the faith he preached, as someone who believed that every person was deeply valued in the eyes of God and whose ambition it was to transform all minds and hearts into the likeness of Christ. His well known prayer "the Breastplate of St. Patrick" is a very moving statement of his total belief and trust in Christ. His use of the shamrock to explain the mystery of the Trinity – Father, Son and Spirit – is very familiar to us as we wear it on his feast.

Hundreds of years later we are challenged to profess and live by the Christian faith as he did. Christianity is not the religion of the elite, where only the select few are allowed to participate. We are all invited into spiritual transformation. Lent is a privileged time for this! During this time of Lent, we are invited to continue the journey of reflection and repentance, remembering that Jesus promises us a share in his glory.



A CHANCE ENCOUNTER?



Somebody wrote that every human experience has a religious dimension. A few days ago, as I was walking up the town, two young women emerged from a doorway and exclaimed – “Oh, Sister Catherine, it’s lovely to see you!” I did not recognise them, but they told me that they were past students at Holy Family Secondary School. They added that they

had lovely memories of their school days. They recalled a thought for the day which I often shared at morning assembly – “The truth will set you free!” I omitted to inform them that it was sometimes misinterpreted. On one occasion, two First Year pupils came to my office door and told me they wanted to let me know that they had owned up to having damaged a chair in their classroom, and the teacher had given them half an hour’s detention!

The encounter I had with the two past pupils brought home to me the practice of discovering ourselves in Scripture texts. Covid 19 provides us with a challenge to re-envision the parish and to find new ways of

gathering as Church. All four Gospels were written on hindsight – I wonder if it was also on hindsight that my two friends were touched with the phrase: “The truth will set you free.”?

I would like to finish this article by recounting one further event in my life which I regard as rather exceptional. Following my retirement from Holy Family Secondary school, I was given the opportunity of following a Scripture course. While the course took place in Chicago, the first three months were spent in the Holy Land. One of those following the course was a young priest from America, Fr. Jim Willig. He said he would love to visit Ireland to let the young people know the treasure of the faith their ancestors had brought to the American people. Alas, that opportunity never materialised – Fr. Jim died from cancer on 24 June 2001 at the age of 50. I had no details of how he died until I discovered a book in Veritas, “Lessons from the school of Suffering” – and it was there I read the inspiring account of his final days.

So, my meeting with the two past pupils opened some lovely memories for me. I hope they may read this article in the next issue of ‘News & Views’. I thank them for sharing their memory with me and I look forward to meeting them again to continue the story.

Sr. Catherine Moran

Don’t forget to put your clocks forward at 2am on Sunday March 27th



SYNOD 2021 - 2023



What is a Synod?

The word “synod” evokes the image of “walking together on the way”. For the Church it is a time-honoured way of working out together the “navigation map” for the Church at particular times. Synodality is about the whole People of God helping each other listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. Pope Francis emphasises that this is not simply a matter of discussion as in a parliamentary debate. Rather it is primarily a prayerful spiritual time of communitarian discernment. It is about finding the best ways for every baptized person to fulfil the Church’s mission of proclaiming to the world, God’s love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

What does it mean for the Catholic Church in Ireland to embark on a synodal pathway?

It means walking together on our pilgrim way in faith towards God, conscious of our God-given gifts.

Essentially, it is listening intently to each other. We are then called to engage in reflecting and praying together about what we are hearing. We journey in this way to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in our mission of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Ireland and beyond.

Speaking at the end of the World Meeting of Families in Phoenix Park, Dublin 2018, Pope Francis encouraged the people of Ireland to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit:

“who constantly breathes new life into our world, into our hearts, into our families, into our homes and parishes. Each new day in the life of our families, and each new generation, brings the promise of a new Pentecost, a domestic Pentecost, a fresh outpouring of the Spirit, the Paraclete, whom Jesus sends as our Advocate, our Consoler and indeed our Encourager. How much our world needs this encouragement that is God’s gift and promise!”

Pope Francis wants to hear from the whole Church about the reality of being part of the People of God right now. He wants us to have a conversation about how we are journeying together and with God in our local parishes. He wants us to dream dreams together about our future. And he wants everyone's voice to count. At the heart of this consultation across the world is the call to be a Church whose members walk together, listen to one another and listen to God who always leads us to where we need to go. While many people will participate through online

questionnaires, and this type of participation is very welcome, this process is about even more than that. It is about mutual listening and communal discernment. The goal of our journeying together is to be present with one another, to listen and learn with each other, and to grow closer to the Lord and God's Church.

During Lent, the Parish will be organising "Listening Sessions" where people can come and share their experience of being part of the Church; where they can listen to one another and listen to God's Spirit speaking to us through our shared stories.

From the Homily of Pope Francis



Opening of Synodal Path

"... the Holy Spirit always surprises us, to suggest fresh paths and new ways of speaking. It is a slow and perhaps tiring exercise, this learning to listen to one another – bishops, priests, religious and laity, all the baptised – and to avoid artificial and shallow and pre-packaged responses Let us not soundproof our hearts; let us not remain barricaded in our certainties".

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For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission



UNITING IN PRAYER AS A DIOCESAN FAMILY



Join with Bishop Denis in praying the Synod Prayer as we take a first step in our journey towards 'walking together' more deeply as a Church.

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For a synodal Church
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We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the
wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal
life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.

SYNOD 2021 - 2023

... continued

Meaning of the Logo

A large, majestic tree, full of wisdom and light, reaches for the sky. A sign of deep vitality and hope which expresses the cross of Christ, it carries the Eucharist, which shines like the sun. The horizontal branches, opened like hands or wings, suggest, at the same time, the Holy Spirit.

The people of God are not static: they are on the move, in direct reference to the meaning of the word synod, which means “walking together”. The people are united by the same common dynamic that this Tree of Life breathes into them, from which they begin their walk.

These 15 silhouettes sum up our entire humanity in its diversity of life situations of generations and origins. This aspect is reinforced by the multiplicity of bright colours which are themselves signs of joy. There is no hierarchy between these people who are all on the same footing: young, old, men, women, teenagers, children, lay people, religious, parents, couples, singles, healthy, disabled; the bishop and the nun are not in front of them, but among them. Quite naturally, children and then adolescents open their walk, in reference to these words of Jesus in the Gospel: “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children”. (Mt 11:25)

The horizontal baseline: “For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission” runs from left to right in the direction of this march, underlining and strengthening it, to end with the title “Synod 2021 - 2023”, the high point that synthesizes the whole.

Synod Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

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and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.

Synod
2021
2023



Accord CLG Services during Covid-19 Restrictions

Marriage Preparation Programmes

During this health emergency, an interactive marriage preparation programme will be delivered via video link by trained Accord facilitators to couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. Please go to www.accord.ie for further details.

Online Couples and Relationships Counselling Appointments

Online Counselling appointments using Zoom are now available for couples and individuals. Accord Counsellors providing online counselling have completed comprehensive professional training in working online with couples and individuals. E.mail onlinecounselling@accord.ie or go to www.accord.ie for further details.

In Person Couples and Relationships Counselling Appointments

As Counselling is considered an essential service under the Government Plan for Living with COVID-19 in-person counselling is available in ACCORD Newbridge Centre.

Please contact us:

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NEWBRIDGE COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS



Newbridge Community First Responders (CFR) are a group of volunteers dispatched by the 999/112 National Ambulance Service to emergencies within the Newbridge Area.

We are Volunteers "on call" who live in the locality. We are your neighbours and work colleagues.

We are trained and certified in the provision of CPR and other life-saving measures. We provide support to those people experiencing Chest Pains, Cardiac Arrest, Choking or Stroke symptoms.

What can you do to help?
Get involved,
Spread the word
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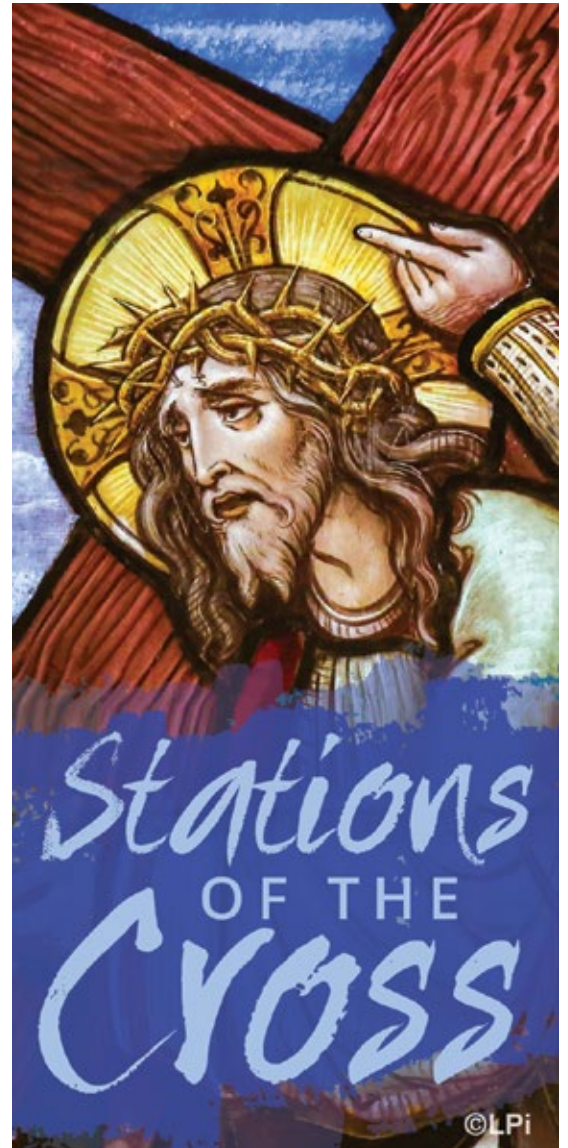
If you would like to volunteer to join the group or would like more information, contact us on:

www.newbridgecfr.ie

Facebook - www.facebook.com/newbridgecommunityfirstresponders/

LENTEN STATIONS

Join us to pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday night in St. Conleth's Church at 7pm.



Citizens Information

Citizens' Information have a new phone number: 0818 078300



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By Paul O'Connor Herbalist & Naturopath, ND.Dip.Herb Nutrition, Celloid & Natural Therapy. A.N.P.



Of all the herbal bottles that I produce this is one of the most popular. It raises phytoestrogen in the blood stream which mimics oestrogen while stimulating oestrogen receptors. This then helps to ease the symptoms such as:

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I've been making this bottle for over 25 years with great success. It has a strong taste but can be mixed with fruit juice to mask the flavour.

Before taking any medicine or herbal medicine check with your healthcare professional. If you would like any more information on this or any of my bottles you can call me on 045 435422.

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15 Questions with people who make a difference in our community: Paul O'Connor



Well this Month I had the pleasure of touching base with one of our long standing advertisers who provides an excellent service to the people of Newbridge and surrounding areas, MR Paul O' Connor, from The Herb Shop. Paul says "I've been a herbalist for 25 years at the same premises. I studied herbalism and naturopathy. I dispense herbs during the day and I do consultations in the evenings. As a qualified herbalist I mix most of my own medicines."

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Q.1 How long have you lived in Newbridge?

All my life

Q.2 Did you always want to be a herbalist?

My father always went to a herbalist, I studied marketing but did not enjoy it, so I took a gamble and studied it and loved it.

Q.3 Have you ever worked in any other field?

I had different summer jobs growing up but have only worked as a herbalist as an adult.

Q.4 If you could live anywhere else, where would it be?

"Newbridge or Nowhere"!

Q.5 What is your favourite sport?

MMA (mixed martial arts), running, cycling, and fishing.

Q.6 What are you reading at the moment?

"From Connell to Droichead Nua" (2001) The History of Newbridge by Mary Connolly.

Q.7 What is your favourite childhood memory?

My favourite memories were always Christmas Day spent with my family.

Q.8 What do you do to relax?

I go fishing or maybe for a run or a cycle.

Q.9 Have you ever used public transport?

Yes, but not often. I live so close to work that I don't need to, maybe once a year.

Q.10 Do you consider yourself a clean or messy person?

Clean, clean, clean – I'm a bit of a clean freak!

Q.11 Do you look at much T.V?

No, it's not my thing at all. I never watch the news, it's too depressing. My life is too short to waste time watching lots of TV.

Q.12 What radio station do you listen to in your car?

Classic Hits.

Q.13 How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?

About 45 minutes

Q.14 What's your favourite place to holiday?

Kilkee, Co. Clare

Q.15 What would you do if you won the lottery?

I'd build retired peoples subsidised apartments close to the town just like Ryan's Field (beside the sports centre). It's such a wonderful gift to any town. Then I'd take a long holiday with my wife and two daughters – a once in a lifetime holiday.

PORTER CAKE

by Geraldine Meade



INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb flour.
- 1 lb fruit.
- ¾ lb dark brown demerara sugar.
- 2 tsb mixed spice.
- ½ lb butter.
- 1 tsb bread soda.
- ½ pint of stout.
- 4 large eggs.

METHOD

1. Pre-heat the oven to 170/gas 4.
2. Use an 8 inch well greased and lined tin.
3. Sieve the flour and rub in the butter.
4. Add the fruit, spice, sugar and bread soda.
5. Heat the porter slightly for 10 seconds in the microwave.
6. Beat eggs.
7. Add porter and eggs to the dry ingredients.
8. Beat with a hand mixer for 3 minutes at a low speed to make sure all the dry ingredients are well mixed.
9. Turn mixture into prepared tin and bake for 2 ½ hours.
10. Cover with a tripple layer of grease proof paper after 1 hour so that the top of the cake does not over cook.



Hilda's Hints



Another Month gone and Spring is on top of us, we can see the lovely stretch in the evenings, what better way to put a pep in our step.

1. Kitchen sink drains often become filthy and smelly, so add 2 parts baking soda and 1 part salt down the drain, then heat 4 parts white vinegar and also pour down the drain, let it bubble for 15 minutes, then run hot water down the sink to clean it.
2. Clean off shoe scuff marks from your floor with a clean dry tennis ball, just a light rub and the shoe mark is gone.
3. When permanent marker gets on the wrong surface or your hands, use vegetable oil to remove, and wipe over with a damp cloth.
4. Always microwave your lemons for 20 seconds on high before you juice them.
5. To open a stuck jar lid tap it gently on the work top and put on a rubber glove to get extra grip.
6. When you get splatters of bacon grease on your top, rub some white chalk into the stain before washing and grease marks are gone.

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ON THE WAY TO SAINTHOOD



Carlo Acutis is the most unlikely looking saint as people pass by his body to venerate his relics in a church in Assisi. Dressed in jeans, a rugby shirt and a pair of white sneakers, he has all the appearance of any young teenager that we might pass on the main road in Newbridge or walking down Grafton Street in the centre of Dublin.

And indeed he is a young person of our time. He was born in May of 1991 in England. His parents were Italian and were living in England at the time of his birth but they quickly moved back to Italy and settled in Milan.

From an early age Carlo was fascinated with computers. He loved to try and build computer programmes and, like many people of his age, he had a passion for video games. There is no doubt that if he had lived into adulthood he would be making a huge impact in the world of IT.

Along with his passion for computers and the internet, Carlo was passionate about his Catholic faith. His parents were not especially religious but when a Polish lady came to his house as his child minder the young Carlo would quiz her about her particular Catholic devotions.

And her adherence to the faith rubbed off! Carlo began to pray as he saw her pray. He knew that she attended Mass regularly and he asked her to bring him with her. At the age of seven, much to his parents' surprise, he asked to be able to celebrate his First Holy Communion.

And from there his faith grew and grew. He had a particular fascination with Eucharistic miracles. He researched the numerous places where miracles associated with the Eucharist had occurred. Finally he built his own website to bring to a wider audience this curious aspect of Catholic faith. By 2003 he had built a professional and elaborate website even though he had barely turned eleven years of age.

Just as Carlo entered his teenage years he was diagnosed with leukaemia. His doctors told his parents that his chances of survival were extremely slight. Carlo accepted his illness with great serenity. When asked if he was in pain he simply would answer that there were others in greater agony. All throughout his illness he offered his sufferings for the Pope and the Church. He finally succumbed to his illness at the age of fifteen, passing away in the presence of his parents.

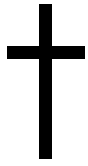
Very soon after his death the interest in Carlo's life and example grew with the cause for his canonisation opening five years after his death. Pope Francis beatified Carlo Acutis in 2020 and the hope and prayer of many is that he will soon be named as a saint of the Church.

The life and example of Carlo Acutis teaches us that each one is called to a life of service to God in the sphere of our ordinary lives. The role which his Polish child minder played in his faith journey also teaches us something about the important place of witnessing to our faith. Could this young Polish nanny have ever dreamed that her example would one day lead to a young child in her care being honoured in such a way by the Church?

*O God our Father,
we thank you for giving us Carlo,
a model of life for young people,
and a message of love for all.
You made him fall in love with your son Jesus,
making the Eucharist his "highway to heaven."
You gave him Mary as a beloved mother,
and you made him, through the Rosary,
a cantor of her tenderness.
Receive his prayer for us.
Look above all upon the poor, whom he loved and
assisted.
Grant me too, through his intercession, the grace
that I need (mention your intention).
And make our joy full, raising Carlo among
the saints of your Church,
so that his smile shines again for us
to the glory of your name. Amen.*

Fr Ruairí Ó Domhnaill

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



DEATHS

Bernadette Smith (née Barry)

– Lakeside Park

Mary Hewitt O'Brien

– Barrettstown Road

Charles Sharratt

– Belfast & formerly of
Newbridge

Norah Burke (née Enright)

– Moorefield, Morristown Road

Marianne Fogarty Curran

– Roseberry

Noel McGovern

– Wellesley Manor

**Margaret (Peggy) McGrath
(née Dooley)**

– Pairc Mhuire & formerly of
Pollardstown

James (Jim) Hannigan

– Rathcurragh & formerly of
Kilworth, Co. Cork

Belinda Moore (née Lyne)

– Roseberry Hill & formerly of
Walkinstown

Ellen (Nellie) Conlon

– Tankardsgarden

Pearse McCorley

– Moore Avenue

Terry Smyth

– Connell Drive

James (Jimmy) Dowling

– Piercetown



Dale Thorpe

Allenview Heights

Died 6th December 2020

The family of the late Dale Thorpe, his mam and dad Ollie & Betty, brother Keith, sisters Karen, Lynda & Fiona, his brothers in law Michael & Stephen, his sister in law Siobhán would like to extend our gratitude to all who sympathised with us on the sad loss of Dale.

To those who attended Dale's wake and funeral and to those who could not, due to restrictions, but sent messages of condolences, we are very grateful. A very special thank you to the doctors & nurses of Tallaght Hospital for the wonderful care they gave Dale and his family.

Thanks also to Dr. Adrian McGoldrick and to Dale's work colleagues from Tesco for their guard of honour and for the remembrance plaque donated by them to Moorefield GAA Club.

We would like to thank Glennon's Funeral Directors for all their kindness in preparation for Dale's final journey.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.

**John Courtney
Dara Park
Died 8th May 2021**



The family of the late John Courtney, his wife Maureen, his son Eric, daughter in law Edel, his grandchildren Ella and Laura and his

extended family and friends would like to express their deep gratitude to all those who supported them on the passing of John.

We are truly grateful for the kindness shown to us by so many of our kind neighbours and friends especially for the beautiful flowers and Mass cards from our neighbours in Dara Park & surrounding areas.

We would like to extend a special "Thank You" to Fr. PJ Somers, sacristan Mary Dwyer and those responsible for the live streaming of John's funeral from St. Brigid's Church, The Curragh, for people who were able to watch the funeral who couldn't attend due to the Covid restrictions.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Glennon's Funeral Directors for their kindness and sensitivity. To Vicky Cahill for the beautiful songs and music she sang at John's funeral. We would like to thank the doctors, nurses and staff of Naas General Hospital who kindly looked after John.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our heartfelt appreciation.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.

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Signature Tastes



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St. Patrick's Day Treats



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