



Parish News

Sunday 14th MARCH

The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert ...

In the synoptic gospels there are three predictions of the passion of Jesus in which he outlines what is going to happen to him when he reaches Jerusalem. This, however, is not the case in John where the passion is prepared for in a completely different way. On three occasions Jesus speaks about himself being 'lifted up'. The Greek word behind this can mean a literal or physical lifting and also an exaltation, a being raised up or glorified. By means of this deliberate play on words the evangelist explains to us that the passion, for all its injustice and brutality, is a glorious revelation of God's love. In this text we have the first prediction of Jesus' death and here the cross is explained as a saving, healing event. Jesus likens his being lifted up (on the cross) to the lifting up of the bronze serpent by Moses in the desert. This is a reference to the occasion when the Israelites had cried out to God to save them from poisonous snakes (Numbers 28). When they looked at the serpent Moses had fashioned from bronze they were healed. So too Jesus, raised up on the cross, is the sign of God's infinite love and the source of our healing.



Reflection

In our day-to-day struggle just to get on with the business of living it is unlikely that we go around with the image of ourselves as 'God's work of art'. There are many forces at work both within us and outside us which tend to pull us down and to leave us with negative feelings about ourselves and those around us. By contrast, at the heart of the gospel message is the wonderful assertion that we are the handiwork of a God who does not make mistakes. This is the God who so loved the world that he gave his only Son not to bully us into obedience or to threaten us with hellfire but to bring us to life in its fullness. This is terrific news indeed, so let us take steps to ensure that other messages do not drown it out.



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Pope Francis to launch a year dedicated to the family

On 19th March 2021, the Church will celebrate five years since the publication of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love) on the beauty and joy of love in the family. On that day, Pope Francis will launch a year dedicated to the family which will conclude on 26th June 2022 on the occasion of the tenth world Meeting of Families in Rome.



Bishops have welcomed the Holy Father's 'Amoris Laetitia Family Year' and will mark its beginning with a week of prayer from 13th to 19th March (**The Feast of Saint Joseph**). This resource is offered to assist families to participate in the week of prayer.

[The resource](#) comprises a page for each day of the week of prayer which can be easily followed. Each day has a theme reflecting on family life through the lens of Saint Joseph, whom we are also celebrating as part of the family year.

Pope Francis to give Knock Shrine new international status on St. Joseph's feast.

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference announced March 11 that the pope will give Knock Shrine official recognition and send a video message to the shrine on the night of March 19. "This feast of St. Joseph is very appropriate to establish Knock as an international Marian and Eucharistic shrine," Archbishop Michael Neary of Tuam said as he welcomed the announcement. The Irish archbishop explained that St. Joseph appeared along with the Virgin Mary in the apparition at Knock in 1879.....[read more](#)

Streamed Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Vigils 7:00pm Vigil
8:00pm (Hospital Mass)
Sundays : 10:00am 11:15am and 12:00pm

Weekdays 09:15am 10:00am and 11:00am
Saturday 10:00am 11:00am



Our online masses can be accessed here [ONLINE](#)

Trócaire are appealing to you to continue your support this Lent. Resources, prayers and videos are available on www.trocaire.org. Trócaire boxes are available at the church doors.



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Rest in Peace

Deaths:

Barbara Doherty, Poplar Rd, **Kieran Barr**, Ivy Mead Close,
Marie Kennedy, Eskaheen View

Anniversaries:

Betty Ferry, William Dunlop, Kathleen Stone, Shea Bradley,
Liam Millar, Ester McClintock, Jim McGinn, Michael Hegarty,
John Hegarty, Gerard Hegarty, Eileen Tracey, James Tracey,
Phonsie McWilliams, Dermot Donaghey, Kathleen Donaghey,
Margaret Clifford.

A Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the
Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

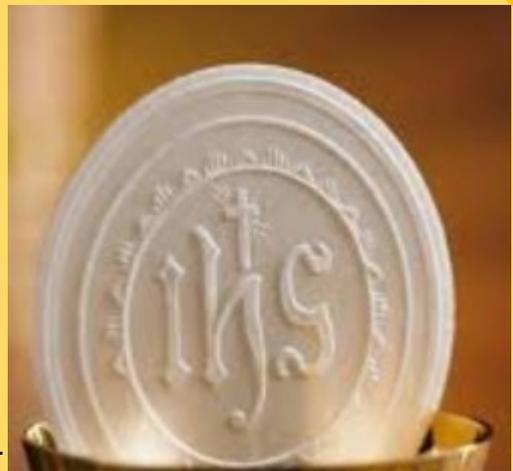
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You
sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



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