



Church of The Immaculate Conception The Lough

Monthly Bulletin

Vol. 3 No. 3, 3rd September 2023

**“For everything there is a season, and a time
for every matter under heaven.”**

(Ecclesiastes)

Ecclesiastes reminds us that God guides the events of all our lives and that there is a gift from God in every season as we journey through the seasons of nature. As we watch the leaves fluttering to the ground as we bid goodbye to Summer and Autumn beckons, we are reminded that nature’s cycles are mirrored in our lives. The season of Autumn is a time when nature is ‘letting go’ to give way to new life. In our own lives too, and in the liturgical cycles, there is a letting go to give way to new life. Our Deacon, Frank Mc. Kevitt, has been appointed, by The Bishop, to Ballincollig parish, bringing an end to his time as Deacon in The Lough parishes and in Dennehy’s Cross. We were very lucky to have Frank with us for the past six years. His generosity and support was greatly appreciated. We extend our very best wishes to him and look forward to marking his contribution at a gathering before the end of the month.

September is the month when all our young students, with their teachers, head back to Primary and Secondary schools. As we extend our good wishes to them, our thoughts and prayers are very much with the parents and siblings of Jack O’Sullivan, who was due into second year at Coláiste Eamon Rís this September, but who passed away as a result of a tragic accident. May Jack rest in peace and may God comfort and console his family. Over the summer months we had many funerals here at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. We continue to keep the families of the bereaved in our prayers and commend the dead to the loving care of God.

On a joyous note, we celebrated a big number of weddings also. It was indeed an inspiration for me to witness such sincerity by so many committed young couples. It was a joy and a privilege for me to share the moment with them. May God bless and journey with all the couples who have decided to have their union blessed through the sacrament of marriage. There was no shortage of Baptisms either with so many beautiful babies being christened, and to witness to the faith of their parents.

(Continued overleaf)

Over the past few months, the world witnessed the drastic effects of climate change with unprecedented floods, storms and out of control fires. We all have to play our part, no matter how small, in saving our planet. We know how concerned the Pope is about the damage to the environment and he is currently penning a follow up to his earlier encyclical Laudato Si.

The Healing Mass and Anointing of the Sick will resume the first Saturday of every month at 12.15. Confessions will be heard after the public masses the first weekend of every month. Finally, on behalf of Canon Jim and myself, I would like to express our gratitude for your ongoing support as we pray God's blessing on you all.

Prayer for Autumn Days

God of the seasons, there is a time for everything: there is a time for dying and a time for rising. God of the Autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We too have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to do so. God of life, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For this we are grateful. Amen.

Fr John Paul

In memory of the recently deceased

Denis Kelly, John Joseph O' Sullivan, Anna McCarthy,
Patricia O' Hanlon, Peter Lecane, Mary Aherne,
Cornelius (Con) Casey, Philip Burke,
Anthony (Tony) Ginnifer, Tess Struthers,
Patricia (Pat) O' Mahony, Slawomir Nyez,
David Dorgan, Joan Ryan, Patricia (Pat) Cummins,
George McCarthy, Ellen (Nell) White,
Cecilia O' Driscoll, Rita Leahy, Jim O'Sullivan,
Patrick Joseph Morrissey, Terence (Terry) McGee,
Barry Reidenbach, Melody McNamara,
Owen Forde, Jack O' Sullivan, Donal Ring.

