

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin



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PARISH BULLETIN

The Parish Bulletin is available weekly on the Parish Website, or can be emailed by forwarding your email address to the Parish Office.

TROCAIRE BOXES

Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. This year, of course, it was not possible to return Trócaire boxes in the usual way. This is the worst possible timing coming just as the world's poorest people need us most.

Therefore, Trócaire are appealing to you to return your Lenten donation. Simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate in the following ways:

1. Online at www.trocaire.org
2. By phone: 1850 408 408
3. By post to Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
4. **Boxes can be left in our Church when it is opened for private prayer from 8.00am to 12 noon every day.**

The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

Happy Birthday

COVID 19 has largely changed the way we celebrate significant birthdays. The traditional large family gathering may now be off limits. The loss is very real and indeed, heart wrenching for many. Birthday homecomings nurtured family bonds and sometimes healed hurts, misunderstandings and failures, enabling new beginnings. Much has changed but all is not lost. Creativity and modern technology have shepherded in new ways to allow us to be enriched by sharing in the birthdays of those with whom we share life, values and love.

This weekend, Pentecost Day recalls the day when the Holy Spirit came formally upon the disciples and commissioned them to bring the news and experience of God's love to the whole world. Their lifestyle and their prayerful preaching were to awaken faith in the Risen Lord Jesus. They were to gather communities of believers to worship Him and to care for others as His people. We can rejoice in the reawakening of community care, service and generosity all around us. COVID 19 is a stark reminder to all of us of how interdependent we are as a human family. But we are more. We are the family of a loving forgiving God whose Spirit enables us to build cells of outgoing goodness, of loving believers and of authentic leadership where ever we are.



In families, birthdays are often times for a renewal of individual responsibilities and creative beginnings. Similarly, Pentecost, as the Church's birthday is an opportunity to explore the wellbeing of its believing family at this rapidly changing time.

There is a growing awareness of the way individual and shared prayerful reflection on the Word of God, especially, the Gospels, enriches and challenges our lifestyles. This weekend's Gospel highlights how forgiveness is central to the task given to the disciples at Pentecost. This same Spirit is given to each of us today to invite us to imitate our Father. Allowing the Holy Spirit a regular space in one's life and in one's family's life can be risky. It could lead to deepening love of one another and of God.

Happy Pentecost to Mother Church and to all believers.

Fr. Tom Clancy