

Ballineaspaig Parish Bulletin



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Parish Office; (021) 4344452

Sacred Heart Novena

Sacred Heart Church, Western Rd.

June 11th to June 19th 2020

Daily 10.00 am and 5.50 pm

All will be livestreamed

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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.

GOD'S WORD

Readings for Sunday

First Reading

Ex 34: 4-6, 8-9

Psalms

Dn 3:52-56

Second Reading

2 Cor 13: 11-13

Gospel

John 3: 16-18

John 3: 16

It is the most publicised scriptural reference in Ireland. For decades it was very visible between the goal posts at crucial attention catching moments of televised sports events. A dedicated fan brought his **John 3:16** placard to Croke Park and other venues to remind us of God's love for us, made visible in His Son, Jesus.

This Sunday, John 3: 16 reads: **Jesus said to Nicodemus,**

"God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son so that everybody who believes in Him, may have eternal life."

A religiously educated and committed Jewish leader, Nicodemus, would have seen God as caring for the Jewish people especially, as a benevolent all-powerful creator, one who was to be worshipped and obeyed rather than loved. Jesus was leading Nicodemus into an important insight into the wonder of a God who is a community of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in whose image each of us is made.

Our God, like any lover, longs not for blind obedience but for ever enriching friendship with us. Such a friendship invites a response. It needs a decision from each of us to embark on a journey into the heart of God where we belong. This invitation is renewed again and again in life especially at times of crisis and upheaval. COVID 19 is obviously such a time. A new normal is upon us.

What will be our personal priorities in the new normal?

Will we open our hearts to allow God's friendship blossom and bear fruit in our daily lives?

Will we eradicate the viruses of fear and prejudice that block us from respecting those who differ from us as brothers and sisters?

Will we let go of our achievements, our privileges and our traditional securities to allow God to build new communities of faith through us?

Will the security of being loved enable us to be courageous leaders in creating a new normal of faith, justice, respect, hope and generosity?

Will we make space each day for reflective prayer to bask in the awe of being loved with the same love that flourishes between the Father and Son through the Spirit?

Will we just carry on as we are and allow the new normal replicate the past?

R.S.V.P. (Write down your response lest we forget)

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Tom Clancy

