

# Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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Ascension (B)

16th May. 2021

Gospel: Mark 16: 15-20

## TRANSITION TIMES

There is a noticeable change of mood around this week. A sense of anxious relief and reassuring hope is awakening among us. The void of pandemic loneliness is being filled with hugs and chatter of spontaneous and planned reunions. Grandparents are again becoming the tangible focus of so much joy, given and received. As people are ready in their own time, the gradual return to Eucharist will soothe many aching hearts. The devastating daily news from India is a stark reminder of what we have been spared ourselves and challenges us to be even more responsible than ever in protecting one another during this fragile transition time.

Transition times are always critical moments personally and for society. The loss of a loved one can leave a gaping wound especially when it has been endured without the support of family and friends. On the other hand, the experience of the tender loving attention of front line carers and sensitive neighbours can help in healing us. Sharing memories of the pain and of the love are key to our future wellbeing and to the building of a better society, of a new and fairer normal.

The pandemic ruthlessly reminds us that we are not meant to be lone rangers in life but when we are united in respectful, generous, practical love we can overcome almost every challenge and enrich all our lives. To nourish this gift of potential human solidarity, we need to cultivate within each of us an attitude of daily thanksgiving towards one another and towards our God. We need to prioritise and treasure relationships in family and among friends and neighbours.

Ascension / Pentecost time was a crucial transition time for the apostles. They had come to enjoy and cherish the presence of Jesus as a daily companion, a celebrity preacher, a miracle worker, a friend and their hope of a better future. Then He was taken from them on Calvary. Even though He rose from the dead, the tangible daily companionship is about to be taken from them again on Ascension Day. He would only now be known through faith. In this new normal for them, Jesus commissioned them to bring the Good News of Him to the world by word and deed.

Jesus gives the same commission to you and me today. We must not allow the initiatives of better ways of life that surfaced during the pandemic to slip away unappreciated and unused. Our decisions now will determine the road ahead for decades. Will our new normal be a fairer more caring way of life for all? The decision belongs to us, each of us. Let faith in loving action be our motto.



Fr. Tom

## Pentecost Novena

Our Pentecost Novena begins on Saturday 15th May and ends on the feast of Pentecost, Sunday 23rd May. We hope you will join us.

The novena reflection will be read after Mass each day. It will also be uploaded each day on the parish website [www.dennehycrossparish.ie](http://www.dennehycrossparish.ie).

If you wish to receive the daily reflection by email, please send your email address to [faithinaction-ballineaspig@gmail.com](mailto:faithinaction-ballineaspig@gmail.com).

*Faith in Action Group*

## “Mini” Wildflower Meadow

We are planning to establish a “mini” Wildflower Meadow adjacent to the Parish Centre to contribute to the Irish Pollinator Plan.

We invite anyone interested to volunteer to join us to get the project started by offering manual help, skills or services.

Contact Máire (086 152 2719 ) or  
Theresa (086 600 8013)

*Faith in Action Group*