

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil: 6.15pm : Sunday: 9.00am & 11.00am Weekdays: Mon- Fri. 9.30

Saturdays: 10.00am Holydays: As Announced

Bulletin 7th April, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

(Divine Mercy Sunday)

Collection: 30th/31st March, 2024

Shrines: €461

Holy Places: €1,095

Parish App: Check Parish App above for "Divine Mercy" Sunday

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK 6th to the 13th April, 2024

Saturday, 6th April - 6.15pm - Tim & Kathleen Walsh

**Sunday, 7th April - 9.00am - Mary Duggan
- 11.00am - Mary Murphy**

Monday, 8th April - 9.30am - Michael, Brigid & Mary O'Donnell

Tuesday, 9th April - 9.30am - Noreen O'Donoghue

Wednesday, 10th April - 9.30am - Patricia O'Donoghue

Thursday, 11th April - 9.30am - Máire Connolly

All Ireland Rosary Rally - Knock, Co. Mayo - 1st June, 2024

The All Ireland Rosary Rally is back this year on Saturday, 1st June in Knock. Bishop Phonsie Cullinan will be the main Celebrant of the 3pm Concelebrated Mass which will include Anointing of the Sick. For further information and to see a list of buses going from around Ireland, visit www.AllIrelandRosaryRally.com

PARISH BULLETIN The Parish Bulletin is available **weekly** on the Parish Website: or can be e-mailed by forwarding your e-mail address to the Parish Office.

Yet believe

Recently the Bishop brought a few of us Priests together to help form a nucleus of prayer for vocations to the Priesthood. Jesus always said that his healings and signs could only be regarded as miracles when faith and prayer are present. We were therefore encouraged to form groups or circles of prayer in our parishes. This parish already has a Circle of Prayer, but it is "off the grid", meaning that it prays in individual homes for peoples' needs through WhatsApp or other remote contact. This Circle had the added advantage of being linked to the nearby Poor Clare Monastery.

Like the gatherings in this weekend's Scripture, we are asked to come together and pray publicly. The way I see it, we could do this exactly as requested, or we could get all our existing groups (we have about ten) to pray at the end of their meetings, like we did with the Creation Candle. It might be possible to even have a Vocations Candle. I leave it to you for suggestions at this time. The reason I mention the suggestion is that we will be circulating forms involving all of our parish activities soon, looking for new Ministers, Parish Council, Finance Council and other vital groups. The terms of office of some of these groups are coming to an end. I am very conscious of the fact that we will have fewer Priests very soon and we are struggling to prepare for this. So, if you have any way of 'coming on board' in our parish life, it would be very much appreciated.

I myself take great inspiration from a unique character in this weekend's Gospel. Thomas was one of the Twelve Apostles and was at times an outsider. He was very independent, spoke his mind and asked the questions that the others avoided.....Lord, we do not know where you are going so how can we know the way? ...and Jesus said.....' I am the way..' There is a wonderful moment when he challenges the belief that the crucified and battered body of Jesus has risen.....he not only sees the place where the nails had been....the gaping wounds....but also touches those wounds. To touch any wound is to reach in to the deepest reality of a person, to speak to their fragility and pain. It is an extraordinary moment to come face to face with our own wounds, our own scars, including the ones we dare not see. Perhaps it might be that touching them will help us to move on. After the hand touched the wound, then comes the release of faith....My Lord and my God....he doubted.....yet he believed.

Thomas was called 'The Twin', because it was said he looked like Jesus himself. He was to travel to India and witness to Jesus Christ there and would give his life for that witness. Of all the Apostles, I think he breathes in the Spirit of Jesus and I pray to him for vocations to the priesthood. With his help, and our prayers, the priesthood will be a reality for time to come.

Warmest greetings as we continue these fifty days marking the Lord's resurrection.

Fr. Donal

