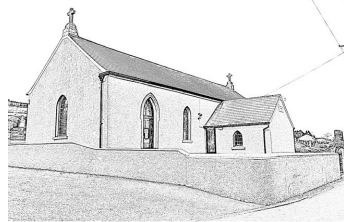


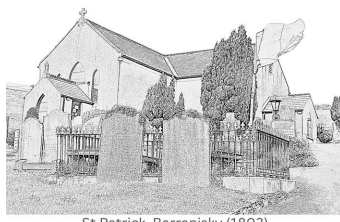
Avoca PARISH NEWSLETTER



St Mary & Patrick, Avoca (1862)



St Kevin, Ballycoogue (1816)



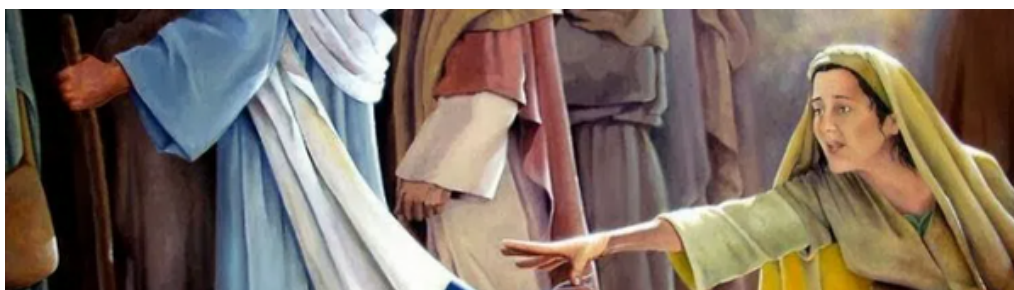
St Patrick, Barranisky (1803)



St Joseph, Templeraíneay (1929)

Issue 5 - 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

30th June 2024



This Sunday's Readings

- **First Reading** – Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24: God created life and intended it to be eternal, but death entered the world through the devil's envy.
- **Responsorial Psalm** – Psalm 30: God lifts us from despair, turns our sorrow into joy, and brings us from darkness to light. We should always praise and thank him.
- **Second Reading** – 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15: Strive to excel in generosity, following Christ's example. Share your abundance to create equality, ensuring everyone's needs are met.
- **Gospel** – Mark 5:21-43: Jesus healed a woman with faith and raised Jairus's daughter from the dead, showing his power over sickness and death.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for July

FOR THE PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK:

We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer on those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

AVOCA PARISH MASS TIMES

AVOCA

St. Mary & Patrick
11.30 a.m.
each Sunday

TEMPLERAINEY

St. Joseph's
7.00 p.m.
each Saturday

BALLYCOOG

St. Kevin's
10.00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

BARRANISKY

St. Patrick's Church
10.00 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sunday

WEEKDAYS

Templeraíneay
Mon & Wed at 10 a.m.

Avoca
Tue & Fri at 10 a.m.

On a day when there is a
Wedding or Funeral, weekday
Mass may be cancelled.

When I came among you nearly 2 years ago now, I told you my appointment from Archbishop Dermot was not just to the Parish of Avoca with its 4 churches, but also to what we now call the Partnership of Parishes that is Arklow, Castletown, Aughrim and Avoca with their 8 churches. With the departure of Fr. David, we are down 1 priest. That means the number of priests in active ministry across the Partnership stands at 3 at this time, average age being 74.

Over recent weeks since Fr. David's departure was announced I have been mentioning the fact that a review of the Mass Schedule across the Partnership is now necessary and urgent. Currently we have 8 churches with 11 weekend Masses. That is now unsustainable and cannot continue. Fr. Pádraig in Arklow, Fr. Diarmuid in Aughrim and myself have been meeting to discuss the matter.

The age profile of serving priests now means that over these next years the focus of organisation of the Church will move from parish to partnership and then on to deanery level. The time has come for all of us to recognize and to come to terms with the reality we face. It is only by working together in partnership that we will be able to manage and survive the predicament we are in. Trying to go it alone will not work.

Given these facts, the big question at local level is:

How are we going to keep our parishes alive?

The ship that was the Church that most of us grew up with was a Titanic. For many and varied reasons that ship has struck an iceberg and now we find ourselves in a small lifeboat trying to survive the swells and undulations that erupt as Titanic sinks to the bottom.

The Church that will emerge out of the wreckage will be different to what we had before, and different in a good way. We are moving away from a church that was anchored exclusively in the ordained ministry to a church that is the People of God. This was the vision of Vatican II. It involves a rediscovery of Baptism as the foundational Sacrament and the consequent flourishing of Lay Ministry. Another way of putting it is that we are on a journey from being a priest-led parish to becoming a lay-led parish. And it's happening fast, whether we like it or not, whether we are ready for it or not. The Holy Spirit is at work, and we have to stand out of his way.

We now have to find ways to move from questions like:

Where can we find a priest to supply Mass because our own priest is on holiday or sick or not being replaced?

... to asking questions like:

How can I live out my Baptism in a new way, how can I exercise the priesthood of the laity that is mine, so as to build up the People of God in my Parish through mission and service?

The review of the Mass Schedule across the Partnership is a work in progress and will affect everybody.

I can't as yet say what precise changes are coming, but I can say change is definitely coming. At present we are looking at the summer months of July and August. That schedule will be announced next weekend.

We are going through a time of great changes. But it's more than that. We are experiencing a change not just of era but of epoch. Something new is being born in the Church. We will feel those birth pangs more and more from now on as we witness the miracle of birth.

Our Faith invites continuing conversation with an evolving world.

Your ideas, suggestions and comments will be most welcome.

Please Email them to: frmichael.avoca@gmail.com.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Fr Michael

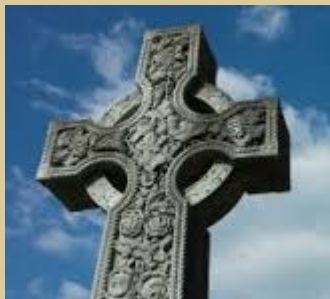
Weekly Parish Notices

- Due to a Nursing Home Mass there is no Mass on Friday in Avoca.
- Next weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil 7pm Templeraíneay
Sunday 10am Barranisky and 11.30am Avoca.
- We need help with cleaning Avoca church on Tuesdays after Mass.
- Summer Dues Envelopes are available in our 4 churches.
- Fr Michael will be taking annual holidays in July. That will mean that on Sunday 14th July there will be no scheduled Mass in Ballycoog. Otherwise, for the holiday period, Mass Times as announced.
- There will be no Newsletter over the holiday period. Notices and Newsletter can be accessed on the Website (www.avocaparish.com)



The annual Peter's Pence Collection will take place at all Masses this weekend, replacing the usual Share collection. The Peter's Pence collection is used by Pope Francis to support charities of his choosing.





Blessing of Graves

Please bring your own bottle of water for the blessing.

Barranisky

Sunday 28th July at 3p.m.

Castlemacadam

Sunday 4th August at 7p.m.

Ballycoog

Sunday 18th August at 7p.m.

Kilmagig

Sunday 25th August at 2p.m.

You can engage with the parish on Facebook and X/Twitter. Here you can find the latest parish news, the weekly parish notices, news from around the diocese, posts from R.I.P. And sometimes music relevant to the liturgical season. **X/Twitter: @avocaparish**
Facebook: www.facebook.com/avocaparish/



Thank You

for your generous contributions each weekend to all church collections. Every donation matters and is much appreciated.

NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS PILGRIMAGE 2024

CELEBRATING THE WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY

THEME: 'DO NOT CAST ME OFF IN MY OLD AGE' (cf. Psalm 71:9)

Sunday 28 July 2024



Photo credit: Sinead Mallon

Principal Celebrant:

Archbishop Luis Mariano Montemayor, Papal Nuncio of Ireland will lead the pilgrimage and the celebration of the fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly at Knock Shrine.

Choirs and Music at the Mass: The combined choirs of Knock Parish directed by Una Nolan, Director of Music at Knock Shrine.

'Lady of Knock' sung by Dana.

Children's Prayer Appeal: Inviting all children to write a prayer for their grandparents and send it to CGA Knock Shrine.

Schedule for the day:

2:30pm: Anointing of the Sick in the Basilica
3:00pm: Pilgrimage Mass followed by the Rosary Procession

Organise transport with your local parish.



Plenary Indulgence granted for the occasion

THOSE UNABLE TO JOIN US IN PERSON CAN TAKE PART ONLINE AT WWW.KNOCKSHRINE.IE/WATCH
www.knockshrine.ie - Telephone: +353 (0) 94 938 8100

Sr. Ann's Mission, Haiti

Dr. Joni Patterson sent an email to update us on life in Milot, Haiti at present:
The region remains peaceful. Our mission was very unexpectedly honoured by the Catholic Health Association of the USA when Holy Name was given an Achievement Award earlier this month for their work in Haiti. Patients continue to stream into the hospital, many of them bravely made their way north to get away from the devastation and violence in the south. Of course, women and children are the greatest in number.

Over half of Haiti continues to experience acute starvation, with 1.4 million people facing famine conditions. The United Nations declared that the humanitarian crisis in Haiti is greater than that in Gaza..... this is so hard to fathom.

Our US based food packathon program continues apace. We have now sent over 2.2 million meals to the needy in Haiti. Sr.

Ann's Mission to feed the poor, especially children, pregnant and nursing mothers, the elderly and the infirm, has grown tremendously. Sr. Ann planted the seed and toiled at its care, and now the fruits of her labor are producing astonishingly!!

Of course the need for care continues.

Thankfully, with kind and generous donors such as all in your amazing group, we continue to make progress. Thank you and may God bless you all.

Thank you for all your support!

The **Parish Office**, Templeraíneay, is attended by volunteers on weekday mornings, except Thursday.

E: parishoffice.avoca@gmail.com

W: www.avocaparish.com

T: 0402- 31943 or 087-298 4526

CONTACT US



Thank you for reading!