

GLENCORRIB & SHRULE PARISH NEWSLETTER – 14th MARCH 2021

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Parish Website: www.shruleglencorrib.com

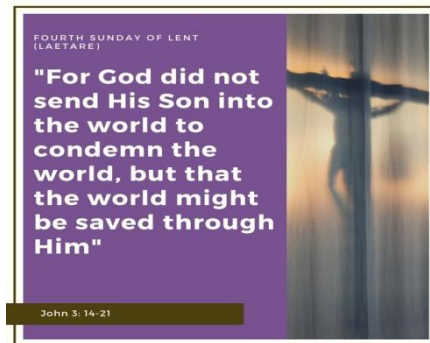
Newsletter email: newsletter@shruleglencorrib.com

Newsletter Text 086 3782156 Newsletter (Vol. 25 – 33)

Newsletter on Web: www.shruleglencorrib.com & www.mayo.ie

You can listen to all Masses on the parish radio 101.4 FM and weekend Masses are available on Facebook/Shrule Parish

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - MASS DATES, TIMES & INTENTIONS



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, SHRULE - Dedicated 1832

Sat	13 th Mar	8.00 pm	Jimmy Davin & Michael Kelleghan (Curramore)	Dec'd & 37 th Anniv
Sun	14 th Mar	11.00 am	Tom & Margaret Geraghty (St. Mary's Road)	31 st & 9 th Anniv
		1.00 pm	Kathleen & Dick Murphy (St. Mary's Road)	24 th & 7 th Anniv
			Michael Sweeny (Brodella)	Funeral Mass
Sun	14 th Mar	3.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 3pm- 4pm	
Mon	15 th Mar	9.30 am	Mary & Thomas Murphy (Wakefield)	7 th & 53 rd Anniv
Tue	16 th Mar	9.30 am	Patrick Hennelly (Essex UK)	
Wed	17 th Mar	11.00 am	Paddy & Eugene Hoade and the deceased members of the Hoade family (Cullagh)	19 th & 9 th Anniv & deceased
			Anne Murphy (Shrulegrove)	18 th Anniv
Thu	18 th Mar	9.30 am	Joe Reilly (Dalgan)	14 th Anniv
Fri	19 th Mar	8.00 pm	Jackie Walsh (Brodella)	Month's Mind Mass
Sat	20 th Mar	8.00 pm	Patrick Hughes and his mother Bridget Hughes (Bullaun)	11 th & 21 st Anniv
Sun	21 st Mar	11.00 am	Donal O'Donovan (Clonakilty, Co. Cork)	17 th Anniv
			John Murphy (Ardagh, Crossmolina)	20 th Anniv
Sun	21 st Mar	3.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 3pm- 4pm	

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, GLENCORRIB - Dedicated 1876

Sat	13 th Mar	6.30 pm	Noel Egan (Curramore, Claran)	RIP 18/01/2021
Sun	14 th Mar	9.30 am	Oliver McGovern (Birmingham, UK)	4 th Anniv
			Christine O'Toole and her son Liam (Rostaff & UK)	11 th & 2 nd Anniv
Sun	14 th Mar	3.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 3pm- 4pm	
Wed	17 th Mar	9.30 am	James Murphy and the deceased members of the Murphy & Gannon families (Ballynalty)	36 th Anniv & deceased
			Mary Donohue (Woodpark/Ballynalty/Ballycurrin)	RIP 29/12/2020
Fri	19 th Mar	7.00 pm	James Harrison (Devon Park, Galway)	RIP 03/01/2021
Sat	20 th Mar	6.30 pm	Maureen & Mark Concannon and the deceased members of the Concannon family	46 th & 5 th Anniv & deceased
Sun	21 st Mar	9.30 am	Missa Pro Populo – Mass for the people of the Parish Intentions	
Sun	21 st Mar	3.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 3pm- 4pm	

PLEASE REMEMBER WITH A PRAYER THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Michael Sweeney, Brodella, Shrule. Funeral Mass for Michael takes place this weekend Sunday 14th March @ 1pm at St. Joseph's Church, Shrule. Funeral private to family only. It will be live streamed on Shrule Parish Facebook Page and can be listened to on the Parish Radio at 101.4 FM. RIP. →



Peggy Judge (nee Kenny) Caherlistrane (Mother of Edel Mohan, Cahir Ard, Glencorrib and sister of Ina Petty, Ballisnahina. Funeral Mass for Peggy takes place on Monday 15th March at 12-noon at the Church of the Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph, Caherlistrane. Mass is private and will be live streamed on www.churchtv.ie Galway/Caherlistrane

Alicoque Hoban (nee Lohan), Castlebar. Sister of Seamus Lohan, Dalgan Road, Shrule. Funeral Mass for Alicoque will take place at The Church Of The Holy Rosary, Castlebar on Tuesday 16th March @ 12.30pm. It will be live streamed on <https://churchtv.ie/castlebar.html.ie>.

SHRULE PARISH is committed to the protection of all children and young people in our Church. See our notice board for contact details.

Always help someone. You might be the only one who does.

Nothing is permanent in this world, not even our troubles

PARISH NOTES: WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS & ONLINE BANKING:

Following a number of enquiries regarding **weekly contributions & online banking**, if any parishioner would like to make their weekly contribution to Shrule or Glencorrib Church you can do so by setting up a standing order or make a once off account transfer

The details of each church bank account have been provided below:

Shrule Church:

Bank: Ulster Bank Ireland DAC
Account Name: Shrule Church Finance Committee:
IBAN IE10ULSB98525010138070 and
BIC: ULSBIE2DXXX

Glencorrib Church:

Bank: Ulster Bank Ireland DAC
Account Name: Shrule Glencorrib Church:
IBAN IE97ULSB98525010138153 and
BIC: ULSBIE2DXXX

I kindly ask that each individual puts their **full name down** as reference when making the standing order or account transfer, so the parish has a record of who has made their weekly contribution through each bank account. **Remember**, this is **very important** for the Charitable Donation Scheme for those who have contributed over €250 annually and ensuring we have the correct records in place at year end for same.

As you are aware, several works have already been carried out in both churches, and with major renovations in Shrule in the next phase, **your contributions are the main source for funding of these works**. As a religious organisation, the **Church is limited in what, if any grants**, it can successfully apply for.

I kindly ask you **not to make any contributions for Special Collections through standing order or account transfer**. This is due to the number of different beneficiaries involved and trying to keep track of these contributions through each bank account.

I would like to express a sincere word of thanks to all to everyone in these difficult times who are continuing to drop off their **envelopes**, including Special Collections at **Shrule PO and/or at curate's house** on Wednesdays. Parishioners can also use the **'Donate' link on the parish website** – simple click on the link and follow the directions. God bless, Fr. Vivian

LENTEN CALENDAR 2021: *This Lent, you are invited to pray with a line of God's Word each week and to express that Word in action each day.*

Fourth Sunday of Lent:

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son

Mon: Pray for loved ones who show us a glimpse of God's love

Tues: Make an effort with someone you find difficult

Wed: Let the news today call you to pray

Thurs: Fast with Jesus

Fri: Take time today to believe in God's love for you

Sat: Show love for someone else today



SPECIAL COLLECTION MARCH 17th FOR IRISH ABOARD

This St. Patrick's Day, please support the Council for Emigrants by contributing what you can. The Council for Emigrants (formerly Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants IECE) is the response of the Episcopal Conference of Irish Catholic Bishops to the needs of Irish emigrants prior to and following departure. It is a significant voice on behalf of emigrants; and is particularly committed to the needs of the *vulnerable involuntary emigrant*. The Council of Emigrants is a strong advocate in condemning involuntary emigration and in *seeking their rights* and *adequate services* for them. It provides services for potential emigrants and, in conjunction with the host church responds to the needs of the Irish as an immigrant community. Outreach chaplaincy centres have been established in the United Kingdom, Europe, USA and Australia, caring for the personal, social and family needs of Irish emigrants. The Councils objectives are:

Support: This valuable work can only continue and is only possible through your kindness and support and is especially important to those who in the 1950's 60's & 70's left Ireland and are reaching retirement with little or no support in place. This St. Patrick's Day, please remember those from our parish living aboard in your prayers and support this special collection. Thank you.

If you would like to make a donation, please drop in your envelope into the parish box at Shrule post office and mark your envelope "Irish Emigrants" Thank you.

BOTH SHRULE & GLENCORRIB CHURCHES are open seven days a week for some quiet prayer and reflection.

PARISH OFFICE TIMES: Shrule Parochial House every Tuesday (10.30am-12noon)
Glencorrib Curate's House every Wednesday (10.30am-12noon) You are welcome to call outside these times, and if Fr. Vivian is not available, please leave a message ☎ 093-31262.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY
Wishing you all a Very Happy St. Patrick's Day on Wednesday next. Masses will be at 9.30am and 11am on the day. Masses can be viewed on Facebook and Parish radio 101.4 fm

**PLEASE REMEMBER WITH A PRAYER THOSE FROM SHRULE AND
GLENCORRIB PARISH WHO DIED ON THIS WEEK IN FORMER YEARS**



Surname	Christian	Village	Date Died	Age	Cemetery
Burke	Patrick	Gortbrack	13/03/1926	70	Killursa
Duddy	Martin	Ramolin	13/03/1946	35	Shrule
Greaney	Thomas	Cloonamealtogue	13/04/1963	82	Shrule
Martyn	Paddy	Cloonamealtogue	13/04/1973	49	Shrule
Moran	Martin	Brackloon	14/03/1922	3	Shrule
Higgins	Michael	Brodella	14/03/1924	81	Shrule
Murphy	Walter	Mohorra	14/03/1932	84	Shrule
Cawley	John	Shrule	14/03/1933	28	Shrule
Murphy	Martin Joseph	Ballybockaugh	14/03/1947	3 mths.	Shrule
Fitzgerald	Michael	Mochorra	14/03/1956		Shrule
Heneghan	Sara Mary	Mochorra	14/03/1967	59	Shrule
Keady	Patrick	Dalgan	14/03/1972	75	Shrule
Mohan	Thomas	Glencorrib	14/03/1976	79	Moyne
Murphy	Joseph	Dalgan	14/03/2016	86	Shrule
Flood	Mary	Mohorra	15/03/1920	75	Cross
Walsh	Thomas	Glasbally	15/03/1922	48	Killursa
Mc Hugh	Mary	Gortbrack	15/03/1926	73	Killursa
McGath	Michael	Glassvalley	15/03/1946	43	Killursa
Mohan	Thomas	New Ballynalty	15/03/1946	60	Moyne
Duddy	James	Ramolin	15/03/1968	50	Shrule
Devaney	Kate	Badgerfort	15/03/1972	82	Shrule
Casey	Michael	Brodella	16/03/1931	70	Tourmakeady
Geraghty	Catherine	Rostaff	16/03/1955	40	Donaghpatrick
Duddy	Mary Delia	Brodella	16/03/1979	59	Shrule
Murphy	Ann	Shrulegrove	16/03/2003	55	Shrule
Connor	John	Rostaff	17/03/1919	90	Moyne
Hoade	Paddy	Cullagh	17/03/2002	63	Donaghpatrick
Moughan	John	Pulbee	18/03/1927	65	Moyne
Meenaghan	Mary	Cahernabruck	18/03/1928	73	Shrule
Moughan	Luke	New Ballynalty	18/03/1928	84	Moyne
Casey	Mary	Shrule	18/03/1940	73	Shrule
Greahan	Michael	Shrule	18/03/1958	83	Shrule
Cannon	Mary	St. Mary's Road	18/03/1974	83	Shrule
Meenaghan	Mary	Churchpark	18/03/1989	86	Shrule
Reilly	Joseph	Dalgan	18/03/2007	53	Shrule
Murphy	Margaret	Glencorrib	19/03/1938	27	Shrule
Murphy	Margaret	Ballynalty	19/03/1947	67	Shrule
Muldoon	Martin	Shrule	19/03/1958	78	Shrule
Hughes	Mary	Mochorra	19/03/1981	74	Shrule
Kavanagh	Kathleen	Cahernabruck	19/03/1989	64	Shrule
Concannon	Maureen	Gortbrack	19/03/2016	80	Killursa
Garvey	Brigid	Gortbrack	20/03/1916	85	Killursa
Meenaghan	Mary	Cloonbanane	20/03/1922	90	Abbettown
Lee	Mrs.	Anlacca	20/03/1936	59	Moyne
Keville	Margaret	Moyne	20/03/1943	20	Moyne
Geraghty	Martin	Corrinreedra	20/03/1954	76	Killursa
Ryan	Robert	Dalgan	20/03/1978	60	Shrule
Murphy	James	Ballynalty	20/03/1985	87	Cross
Egan	Andrew	Inishmacatreer	20/03/1993		Cong
Duddy	Jimmy	Gurteen	20/03/1970	92	Kille
Muldoon	Thomas	Shrule	21/03/1935	59	Shrule
Sweeney	Domnall	Ravenhill	21/03/1935	83	Shrule
Naughton	Catherine	Rostaff	21/03/1956	92	Moyne
Dooley	Francis	Moyne	21/03/1964	68	Shrule
Buckley	Pattie	Moorgagagh	21/03/1980	83	Shrule

JUST A THOUGHT:

An old man was travelling through India and was boarding a train one day, and just as he was going inside, one of his shoes slipped off and got caught on the track. He tried to pull it but could not. People standing near watched him. When he was unable to pull the shoe from the track, he took off his other shoe and threw it on the track right at the spot where the first one was stuck. The astonished passengers were confused by his actions and asked, "Why did you throw your other shoe onto the track?" He replied, "If a poor man or woman who finds the first shoe, they are no better off, but what is better off if they find a pair of shoes that they can wear.



What did he do? He did not let the loss of the shoe mar his clarity of thinking. Rather, he weighed the situation, and came up with a brilliant idea. If he couldn't use the shoe, then someone else should get the help. Even in the loss, you can be generous and caring. He thought he could use this as an opportunity to make a contribution to some poor person who might need shoes. If he were attached to his shoes, then his whole train journey would have been caught up in the web of anger, despair and hopelessness. This would have completely drained him. By releasing his shoes, he could give them up and move on. He could spend the rest of his time in productive thoughts, instead of sulking over what could not be regained.

Take this story and use it to be extra kind to those around you today and it will make a big difference to them and to you.

WILDLIFE SURVEY – 2021 – THE HARE (AN GIORRIA) - A FEW FACTS ABOUT HARES.

- The hare is one of Ireland's oldest indigenous mammals, dating back to 28,000 BC.
- The average lifespan of an Irish hare is considered to be 9 years, which is remarkable when you consider an estimated 80% of juvenile hares do not survive their first year.
- Their habitat can be diverse from higher mountain ground to coastal grasslands. This reflects their diet made up of heather, gorse, grasses and herbs.
- The colour of their coat can vary from light/ reddish brown in the summer to grey in the winter. The ears of the adult are tipped in black. The tail and underbelly are usually white.
- They communicate with each other through purring or snorting and are known to scream loudly if distressed.
- In Irish folklore the hare is considered to be a magical creature, a shapeshifter with links to the Otherworld.



For survey information or to send your wildlife sightings by email to sgkwildlifesurvey@gmail.com. Follow us on Instagram @sgkwildlifesurvey2021

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY: Sunshine: My Mother, my friend so dear, throughout my life you're always near. A tender smile to guide my way, you're the sunshine to light my day. ~ Anon.

A Mother's love is something that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away . . .
It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking . . .
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems . . .
It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation . . .
A many splendoured miracle man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand.

Helen Steiner Rice

Please remember all mothers today, the ones you can visit or phone as well as the mothers who have returned home to God.



A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR: The Benefits of a good vocabulary:

I recently called an old engineering friend of mine and asked what he was working on these days. He told me that he was working on "Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminium and steel under a constrained environment". I was impressed until, upon further enquiry, I learned that he was washing the dishes with hot water under the supervision of his wife!

I had a happy childhood. My dad would put me inside a tyre and roll me down a hill. They were Goodyear's...

KILROE NS AND PRESCHOOL is now enrolling for September 2021. All enquiries can be emailed to kilroeschool@gmail.com Visit www.kilroens.ie for more info

ST. JOSEPH'S NS, SHRULE is enrolling for September 2021. All enquiring can be emailed to shrulsec@gmail.com Visit www.shrulens.ie for more info.

GLENCORRIB NS is now enrolling for September 2021. All enquiries can be emailed to glencorribns@gmail.com Visit www.glencorribns.ie for more info



WILDLIFE SURVEY 2021

Calling all residents from Shrule, Glencorrib and Kilroe! Your help is sought to assist in taking part in a wildlife survey by recording wildlife sightings in your area throughout the year 2021. The findings of the survey, will be compiled and provided to the community and the county libraries for further educational and community purposes. Help record sightings of our **wild birds, mammals, insects** and **amphibians**. All you have to record is the species, date of sighting, village/townland and type of habitat (garden, hedgerow, farmland). You can record and return monthly to the following email address sgkwildlifesurvey@gmail.com **Everyone is welcome to assist so please spread the word to your family and friends.** *SGK Historical/Environmental Group project*



SHRULE PARISH NEWS:

SHRULE ALTAR SOCIETY: Volunteers needed for Shrule Altar Society. This group helps ensure and are responsible for flowers for the altars and sanctuary. Minimum would be 2 people per month. The area will be divided into 12 with each responsible for 1 month. Support & help is available to those who volunteer.

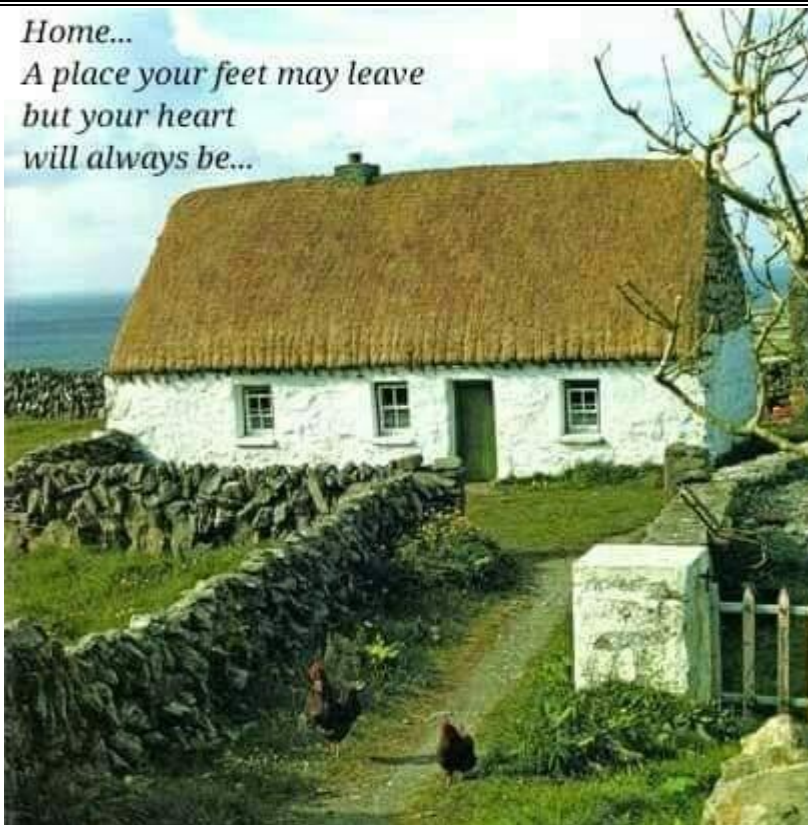
THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER WILL ONLY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR MONTH ONLY.

Note there will be different arrangements in place for Christmas and Holy Week. The following are the areas assigned to each month. It is possible to change areas with respective months. The number after the month and townland indicates volunteers:

January: Dalgan Road & Cahreen (1)	July: Wakefield (0)
February: Dalgan Domain, Gurteen & Carramore (0)	August: Ramolin & Tubberkeerane (0)
March: Dalgan Park & Dalgan Yard (0)	September: Mocollogan & Cahernabruck (0)
April: Kilmaine Road, Kille & Cahermaculick (1)	October: St. Mary's Road (1)
May: Churchfields & Shrule (0)	November: Brodella (0)
June: Largan, Joyce Park & Shrule Grove (1)	Dec: Brodella South / Cloonbanane / Long Hill (0)

Please contact the parish if you would like to volunteer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who already are volunteering in the parish, especially in these challenging times.

*Home...
A place your feet may leave
but your heart
will always be...*



**ONE MINUTE
YOU'RE
YOUNG AND
FUN AND THE
NEXT MINUTE
YOU PREDICT
THE WEATHER
WITH YOUR
BAD KNEE.**

HAILSTONES OUTSIDE by Vincent Campbell, Glencorrib

The bright morning suddenly darkening
Like the world blowing a fuse and
The lights going out – dullness in an otherwise beautiful day.
That great big dark cloud drifting closer, ominously,
With its hidden load waiting to unleash.
Getting the warning is a kind act of nature
As many never get such an act but are
enveloped, overtaken with often no warning.
The unexpected, the unwanted, the twists of
what is life? And the darkness that can so quickly
burn bright and dazzling again.
Those dark winter months casting that long lonely shadow
And spring with its hope and cheerfulness and anticipation of
something special dormant, awakening but ready to grow.
The cloud drifts closer and unleashes its load.
Those hailstones bouncing and banging and trying to get inside,
Denser by the minute and then silence, but all
shattering the peace of that early morning coffee.
Making its presence felt like the stings of a wasp
So fast and sharp, unexpected and slowly forgotten.
The ground painted white for those fleeting few minutes
But the realness of this mirage disappears so fast, as it melts.
Like the dark clouds of life that often colour our thinking the
hailstones can leave as quickly as it fell leaving the spring ground
preparing and readying for the next blooms of growth.

When we lose someone
we love, we must learn
not to live without them,
but to live with the love
they left behind.



DID YA KNOW? - DID YOU KNOW THESE THINGS HAD NAMES?

1. The space between your eyebrows is called a glabella.
2. The way it smells after the rain is called petrichor.
3. The plastic or metallic coating at the end of your shoelaces is called an aglet.
4. The rumbling of stomach is actually called a wamble.
5. The cry of a new born baby is called a vagitus.
6. The prongs on a fork are called tines.
7. The sheen or light that you see when you close your eyes and press your hands on them is called phosphenes.
8. The tiny plastic table placed in the middle of a pizza box is called a box tent.
9. The day after tomorrow is called overmorrow.
10. Your tiny toe or finger is called minimus.
11. The wired cage that holds the cork in a bottle of champagne is called an agraffe.
12. The 'na na na' and 'la la la', which don't really have any meaning in the lyrics of any song, are called vocables.
13. When you combine an exclamation mark with a question mark (like this ?!), it is referred to as an interrobang.
14. The space between your nostrils is called columella nasi.
15. The armhole in clothes, where the sleeves are sewn, is called armscye.
16. The condition of finding it difficult to get out of the bed in the morning is called dysania.
17. Illegible hand-writing is called griffonage.
18. The dot over an "i" or a "j" is called tittle.
19. That utterly sick feeling you get after eating or drinking too much is called crapulence.
20. The metallic device used to measure your feet at the shoe store is called Bannock device.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

REMEMBERING YOUR LOVED ONES:

If you're loved ones from the parish are not listed in our weekly listing and you would like them to be remembered, then please ☎ / Text 0863782156 or email glencorrib2000@gmail.com with their details. **"To be forgotten is to die twice"**

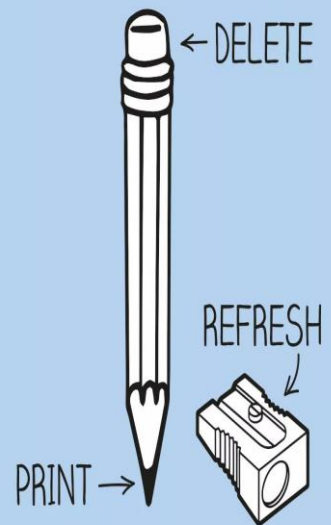
I DID NOT WRITE THIS - BUT WOW DOES IT SPEAK TO MY HEART!!! WORTH THE READ.

Barely the day started and... it's already six in the evening.
Barely arrived on Monday and it's already Friday.
... and the month is already over.
... and the year is almost over.
... and already 40, 50 or 60 years of our lives have passed.
... and we realize that we lost our parents, friends.
and we realize it's too late to go back...
So... Let's try, despite everything, to enjoy the remaining time...
Let's keep looking for activities that we like...
Let's put some color in our grey...
Let's smile at the little things in life that put balm in our hearts.
And despite everything, we must continue to enjoy with serenity
this time we have left. Let's try to eliminate the afters...
I'm doing it after...
I'll say after...
I'll think about it after...
We leave everything for later like " after " is ours.
Because what we don't understand is that:
Afterwards, the coffee gets cold...
afterwards, priorities change...
Afterwards, the charm is broken...
afterwards, health passes...
Afterwards, the kids grow up...
Afterwards parents get old...
Afterwards, promises are forgotten...
afterwards, the day becomes the night...
afterwards life ends...
And then it's often too late....
So... Let's leave nothing for later...
Because still waiting see you later, we can lose the best moments,
the best experiences,
best friends,
the best family...
The day is today... The moment is now...
We are no longer at the age where we can afford to postpone
what needs to be done right away.
So let's see if you have time to read this message and then share
it.
Or maybe you'll leave it for... " later "...
And you'll never share it....

Dear God, this day, I
thank You for all the love
and blessings you have
given me: My loving
family, my caring friends,
and all the wonderful
people I met in my life's
journey. May I ask you to
please bless, protect, and
guide them in overcoming
their challenges in life.
Thank you.



WHEN I WAS A KID, THIS WAS MY COMPUTER:



DAN BACKLAND FOR GRUMPY OLD GITS | @LITTLE CHURCH MOUSE LTD MMXX

AWARE: Support & Self Care Groups. If you or those with whom you work wish to connect with people in relation to your mental wellbeing, please consider using the Phone In and Zoom Support & Self Care Groups, the Support Line or Support Mail, now and throughout the holiday season. These services provide support, coping skills and information - and most importantly help people who are in distress to know and feel that they are not alone in their experience. For more information about the groups, then please visit their website on www.aware.ie/support/support-groups/ and all of their services are listed there.



COVID-19 SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE: Alone manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties to the outbreak of Covid-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am – 8pm, by calling ☎ 0818 222 024.

AS I WAS SAYING – WELL WORTH A READ ☺

A real casualty of the pandemic has been communal life; simply meeting each other, dropping in on each other, the chat, the hug and the banter, family gatherings, holidays, meeting of friends in church, for lunch, shopping etc. - the list goes on. Many, people are feeling very isolated and while the vaccine has given people a boost, we are a long way from the gentle casual caring community that has been so much part of our lives. Whenever we get back to normal the major task will be to “rebuild community”. It seems to me that older parishioners will be wary of even being out and about, of coming back to church etc. as in pre Covid days. In terms of Mass, given that you can now turn off the preacher if the celebrant is waffling online and you can “church hop” on the internet from your bed, the habit of faith community may have been broken for good, not just for the “occasionals” but also the “regulars”.

Some Positives: The “on-line Masses” are a new dimension and are appreciated. Far more people are “tuning in” to Mass on-line on a daily basis than ever “attended” Mass in their local church.

Even though telephone calls and emails are not an ideal means of communication and lack intimacy, they facilitated some real meaningful conversations and relationships that might not have occurred. If the pandemic changes the way we do weddings for example that will be a good thing. People know they do not have to remortgage their lives now to wed; things have become simpler and more genuine.

Spirituality and religion have big challenges ahead. There are parishes where the bond between priest and people has deepened over the last year and others where it has vaporised. Religion for religion’s sake is gone and that is not a bad thing. Religion I suspect has become more “personal” and less of a “cultural habit”. Relying on the ways things were done in the past will not be adequate. Removing the drama and the hype is not a bad thing. Many people have recovered their faith and need for God and if that is not the foundation of what we do going forward, then forget it. When we are allowed to gather again we will have to meet as people of faith with a renewed authenticity and open a real conversation about rebuilding church and community.

Have a good weekend. *Fr. Gerry Jennings, Salthill*

OUT INTO THE LIGHT

Today, the ‘middle’ Sunday of Lent, is known as Laetare Sunday –Laetare means ‘Rejoice!’ We tend not to think of Lent as a time to rejoice, but signs of joy are central at Mass today, such as the use of flowers on the altar and rose-coloured vestments for the priest instead of the usual Lenten purple.

The shadow of the cross still looms large, but we look forward with hope to Easter, when light will conquer the darkness. We are offered an opportunity today to pause and reflect on our Lenten journey. In our gospel we hear that ‘the [person] who lives by the truth comes out into the light’. On the other hand, Jesus says that those who ‘prefer darkness to the light’ live in fear that their actions will be exposed. We hear a lot of talk these days about transparency. We have seen the damage caused by those whose private actions gravely contradict the message they proclaim in the public sphere.

Some questions we might ask ourselves this Lent are: Am I living a truthful life ‘in the light’? Am I honest in my dealings with others, trying always to choose what is right and just, or are there things I do in secret that are unkind or dishonest? Am I attentive to the needs of others or am I more inclined to think of myself? Lent offers us the opportunity to step out into the light, to allow the light of Jesus to sweep away any darkness or destructive habits and to begin again. ‘We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence, and we are able share it with others; when we know when to smile with those who smile, and weep with those who weep; when we accompany those who are sad and at risk of losing hope; when we recount our experience of faith to those who are searching for meaning and happiness... and there –with our attitude, with our witness, with our life –we say ‘Jesus is Risen,’ with our soul.’ (Pope Francis). *Triona Doherty*

I hear a lot of people saying, “I’d survive this virus, I’m taking my chances.”

Yeah, you might survive it, but you also might carry it to someone who wouldn’t.

And that, folks, is the problem.

*Direction
is more important
than speed...*



Designed by Peggy

ST. PATRICK –PRINCIPAL PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND.

'I arise today'

We often forget that Patrick was an immigrant –in modern terms we might call him an undocumented migrant. In his Confession he describes himself as a refugee: 'I am first of all a simple country person, a refugee and unlearned. I do not know how to provide for the future.' But Patrick's fortunes were turned around and he embarked on a mission in his adopted homeland that would earn him the title 'Apostle of Ireland'. We are reminded in our gospel today of our mission to 'Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation'. While this might seem a

mammoth task, we are reminded of all those who have carried that torch of faith down through the ages, from the apostles, to St Patrick and the saints and all who have been courageous in bringing the Good News of Jesus to the world. Many, like Patrick, would have been considered unlikely disciples and teachers but they embraced the challenge. We all have our part to play in this mission. Through the words we speak, the way we love, the way we work for justice and care for creation, we are participating in God's plan for the world. The faith passed to us through Patrick encourages us to greet each day with joy, hope and courage. Let us be inspired to meet the challenge of each new day with the words of St Patrick's Breastplate:

**I arise today, through
the strength of heaven,
The light of the sun,
The radiance of the moon...
I arise today, through
God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me
God's shield to protect me.**



AND HISTORY HELD ITS BREATH

The action of Rosa Parks, the Afro-American lady who refused to yield her seat on a bus to a white person in Alabama back in 1955. An unjust law demanded that she do so. After a long day's work, she told the bus-driver that she was too tired to stand.

Later she was to declare that what she was really tired of was humiliation, oppression and injustice. On a retreat three weeks before the historic event, the preacher made a telling observation.

He reminded his listeners that, although they may be just weak people, God could do great things with their co-operation. This sentiment affected her deeply, returned to her as she boarded a segregated public bus and sat down in the white section of the bus.

She was asked to move from the seat. She refused. She was arrested and thrown into prison.

Rosa's valiant act of protest was the spark that ignited the mighty and successful civil rights movement of Martin Luther King Jr. After which segregated seating on public buses was made illegal. *Catholic Ireland.*

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

